



FIRE & EMS NEWS

June 18, 2010

Welcome to the latest issue of the Chabot College Fire & EMS News!

This latest issue is jam packed with fire service news stories, training opportunities, training and safety information, volunteer opportunities and employment opportunities! Whether you are a future firefighter or a current fire service professional of any rank, you should find valuable information that will help keep you educated and informed, as well as up-to-date with the fire service.

This issue is dedicated to the nine Charleston (SC) Firefighters who lost their lives at the Sofa Super Store Fire on June 18, 2007:

Company:	Rank:	Name:	Age:	Service Years:
E 19	Firefighter	Bradford "Brad" Baity	37	9
E 16	Captain	Mike Benke	49	30
E 16	Firefighter	Melvin Champaign	46	2
E 19	Firefighter	James "Earl" Drayton	56	32
Tower 5	Engineer	Michael French	27	1 ½
E 19	Captain	William "Billy" Hutchinson	48	30
Tower 5	Engineer	Mark Kelsey	40	12 ½
E 15	Captain	Louis Mulkey	34	11 ½
Tower 5	Firefighter	Brandon Thompson	27	4

The Sofa Super Store Fire was one of the worst tragedies in the United States to date, with lots of lessons to be learned and reinforced, to ensure we reduce the risk of the same tragedy occurring again in the future.

REMEMBERING THE CHARLESTON 9 – 3 years later:

Three years ago today, nine firefighters died in the Sofa Super Store Fire in Charleston, S.C. Since that time, numerous investigations, articles and presentations have attempted to capture the lessons from the event. Today, the Charleston Fire Department is in the midst of

an unprecedented rebuilding, knowing that this is the only way to honor the memory of those who died.

[Fire Rescue Magazine](#) & [Firefighter Nation.com](#) have teamed up to provide excellent coverage of this anniversary and have a large amount of must read information for any current and future firefighter of all ranks:

In this special enews (see website link below), they visit with key Charleston Fire Department administrators and firefighters, as well as those involved in documenting and sharing the lessons, to bring you a range of perspectives on how the firefighters and the department are emerging from this tragedy.

For the full story, go to: [Read full story](#)

FALL 2010 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

Registration for the Fall 2010 semester has begun for some students, and is scheduled as follows:

Fall Registration Dates

- **Continuing students by priority:** already in process.
- **Early decision students:** already in process.
- **New and Former students:** beginning May 17th

The following fire-technology related courses are going to be offered this Fall:

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization) Note: This section (Monday morning) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 20 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.	Monday (am)	0800 – 1150 hours
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 51 (Fire Service Operations)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival) Note: This section (Wednesday afternoon) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 24 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (mid)	1500 – 1750 hours
FT 54 (Fire Prevention Technology)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 56 (Building Construction for Fire Protection)	Wednesday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours

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COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - October 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat) - November 17, 19 and 21 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) or Mon & Wed (pm) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours 1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: November 30, December 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 19	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: November 16, 18, 20 and 21	Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1800 – 2215 hours 1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: November 19, 11, 13 and 14	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 95 (Work Experience) **Must also be registered in FT 96**	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95** Note: Class only meets on the following dates: August 19, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 16	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1400 – 1750 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Friday (am)	0830 – 1250 hours
Health 81 (EMT) **Must also be registered in Health 83**	Wednesday (all day)	0830 – 1845 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) **Must also be registered in Health 81**	Saturday (one day only – November 6)	0830 – 1620 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: November 30, December 2, 4, 7, 9 and 11	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours

NOTE: The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding Fall 2010 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at <http://banner-web.clpccd.cc.ca.us:700/>

My suggestion to everyone is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up very quickly, and with more people wanting to become firefighters, we don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFORMATION FROM THE N.F.P.A.:

NFPA study: Nearly all structure fire deaths happen in home fires

- **Home fires cause annual average of 2,840 civilian deaths**

According to a new study, [Home Structure Fires](#), from the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA), home fires account for 92 percent of fire deaths that occur in structures. These fires cause an average of 2,840 civilian deaths each year. "This study strongly underscores the need to aggressively work to reduce the number of home fires in this country in order to save lives from fire," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of communications. During the period of 2003-2007, U.S. fire departments responded to approximately 380,000 home fires a year. These fires not only caused a large number of civilian deaths, they also caused an average of 13,160 reported civilian fire injuries and \$6.4 billion in direct property damage. From 2003-2007, smoking materials caused the largest number of fire deaths. Heating equipment was the second leading cause of home fires and home fire deaths. The leading cause of home structure fires, civilian fire injuries, and unreported fires continues to be cooking equipment. Forty-one percent of home fires started in the kitchen area and caused 15 percent of the home fire deaths and 36 percent of the reported fire injuries.

Other key findings include:

- Reported home fires peaked around dinner hours of 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Only 20% of the reported home fires occurred between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., however 52% of home fire deaths resulted from fires reported during these hours.
- Thirty percent of reported home structure fires and 38 percent of home fire deaths occurred in the quarter including December, January, and February.
- Reported apartment fires were more likely to start in the kitchen than fires in one- and two-family homes.
- The two leading items first ignited in home fire deaths are upholstered furniture in 21% of home fire deaths, followed by mattress and bedding in 13% of the deaths.

Properly installed and maintained fire protection can prevent most fire deaths. Forty percent of fatal home fire injuries occurred in properties where no smoke alarms were present. Home fire sprinklers can also help, as the death rate per 1,000 reported home fires was 83 percent lower when wet pipe sprinkler systems were present, compared to reported home fires without automatic extinguishing equipment:

<http://www.nfpa.org/newsReleaseDetails.asp?categoryId=488&itemId=47479&cookie%5Ftest=1>

“Smoke alarms have been a key factor in significantly reducing the fire death problem since their widespread use beginning in the ‘70s. The move to require home fire sprinklers in new homes will be the next step forward in fire protection,” said Carli.

The NFPA offers these safety tips to prevent home structure fires from occurring:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything that can catch fire – oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains – away from your stovetop.
- Keep anything that can burn, such as paper, bedding, or furniture, at least three feet away from heating equipment and have a three-foot “kid-free zone” around stoves, open fires and space heaters.
- Remember to turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- If you smoke, smoke outside using a deep, sturdy ashtray. Remember to make sure butts and ashes are out, and dousing water or sand on them is the best way to do that.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children’s sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Install smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may require additional smoke alarms to provide a minimum level of protection.
- For best protection, install combination ionization/photoelectric smoke alarms or both photoelectric and ionization alarms. Photoelectric alarms are more responsive to smoldering flames and ionization alarms are more responsive to flaming fires.
- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable batteries are designed to remain effective for 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away. For smoke alarms with any other type of battery, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use ten year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are ten years old or sooner if they do not respond properly when tested.
- Smoke alarm accessories are available for people who are hard of hearing. These accessories activate from the sound of traditional smoke alarms and produce a complex low frequency alarm signal, more effective at waking those with mild to severe hearing loss.
- Smoke alarms and accessories are available for people who are deaf. Smoke alarms and accessories that use high intensity strobe lights and accessories that produce a tactile (vibration) signal are now required for those with profound hearing loss.
- If you are building or remodeling your home, consider installing home fire sprinklers.

For more safety tips, please visit www.nfpa.org/safetytips.

NFPA has been a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building, and life safety to the public since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The [Sedona \(AZ\) Fire District](#) announces two separate hiring lists – one for **Firefighters** and one for **Firefighter/Paramedics**:



Sedona Fire District *2010 Firefighter Hiring List*

SFD is looking for qualified applicants to establish two (2) separate hiring lists for Firefighters:
(1) for Firefighter EMT and **(1) for Firefighter Paramedic!**

Minimum qualifications include:

- High School Diploma or GED equivalent
- Current AZ Drivers License
- Arizona State EMT (or Paramedic) Certification
- AZ State or IFSAC FF I and II Certification or completion of Firefighter training curriculum from an accredited community college equivalent to NFPA 1001 standards
- HAZMAT/First Responder Operations Qualified
- Successful completion of Basic Wildland Firefighter Training as outlined in NWCG 310-1
- Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) from a licensed agency (community college, private testing agency, etc.) valid within 1 year of SFD application date (a copy must be submitted with your SFD application)

Firefighter Base Pay is \$40,983/annually plus \$2.03/hr. Paramedic Incentive if applicable Plus Excellent Benefits!

Go to <http://www.sedonafire.org> and click on the Divisions/Human Resources link to download an application to mail to Mandi Garfield at the address below or email it to mgarfield@sedonafire.org or fax to 928-204-8916.

Applicants may apply at SFD, Station 1 at
2860 Southwest Drive, Sedona, AZ 86336

Closing date is June 25, 2010 at 1700 hours.

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

FIRE/EMS Stand Down: Priority Survival Notification: Confined Space and Technical Rescue

Fairfax, Va., June 1, 2010... The International Association of Fire Chiefs ([IAFC](#)) through their [Safety, Health and Survival Section](#) are urging all fire chiefs and officers to immediately issue a stand down in their departments due to two separate, but similar confined space rescue incidents that nearly took the lives of several firefighters. During a stand down, personnel are directed to postpone non-emergency tasks to focus on critical safety training.

In addition to federal, state and local laws, the IAFC Safety Health and Survival Section has identified a number of [online resources](#) for fire and emergency service leaders and personnel to use in this stand down and in their ongoing efforts to educate personnel on technical rescue operations.

"In recent weeks, incidents involving confined space rescues in both Ohio and Indiana left initial civilian victims dead and firefighters critically injured," stated Chief Billy Goldfeder, chair of the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section. "In both cases, while heroic attempts were made to save the victims, firefighters ended up becoming victims themselves."

During the stand down, chiefs are requested to have all personnel immediately review and discuss applicable departmental policies and procedures to minimize the risk to firefighters in confined space and related technical rescue incidents.

"Confined space and similar technical rescues are high-risk, but low-frequency events," said Chief Jeff Johnson, IAFC president. "The rarer the incident type, the more likely that fire and EMS personnel may be unaware of, unprepared for, or even forget proper procedures as they race to rescue a victim. I urge fire and emergency leaders to immediately take action to review the dangers and proper procedures for confined space rescue operations."

PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION COURSES:

By popular demand, I have scheduled another **promotional preparation course** this October! It's never too early to start preparing for your next promotional exam!

Upcoming Scheduled Classes:

- Monday **October 4** and Tuesday **October 5** and Wednesday **October 6, 2010** – San Ramon, CA

Please check my website at www.code3firetraining.com for the most up-to-date information on class locations and dates as I am currently in the processing of scheduling classes through early 2011.

Class size is limited, so register early!

How To Excel At Fire Service Promotional Exams!

- Tired of not getting promoted off of your last fire service promotional examination?
- Preparing for an upcoming promotional process?
- Want to do so well you won't have to take the promotional examination again?
- Then this class is for you!

TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE:

- So you want to promote in the fire service? An overview of what to expect & prepare for.
- 11 steps for success in the promotional process.
- Creating a value-added promotional resume!
- What to expect on the written test
- Ace your promotional interview!
- Personnel counseling problems
- In-Baskets / Writing Exercises
- Teaching demonstrations / oral presentations
- How to smoke the emergency simulation portion of the assessment center!
- ICS, Strategy and tactics review
- Preparing for the position, not just the test
- Going from just checking the box to understanding what you're doing
- Managing the incident, from beginning to end
- Simulator practice and critiquing on various types of incidents, including: Structure fires (residential, high-rise, commercial, apartment, etc.), Wildland fires, Mass-Casualty Incidents, & Haz Mat Incidents.

Instructor: Steve Prziborowski, Battalion Chief and Master Instructor. Steve was recently named as the 2008 California Fire Instructor of the Year and has coached and mentored numerous personnel to get promoted or hired in the fire service.

To Register: Go to www.code3firetraining.com for secure payment with Pay Pal, and most major credit cards. Or, if paying by Cashier's Check, Money Order, or Personal Check, email me at sprziborowski@aol.com for more information.

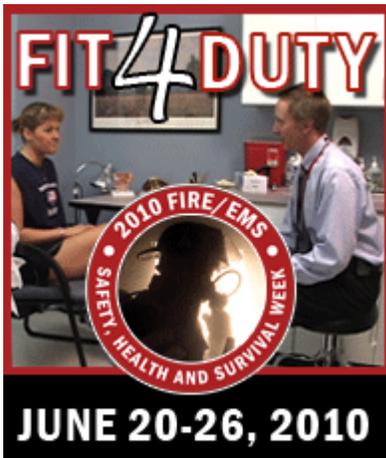
More Info: Contact Steve Prziborowski, 408-205-9006 or sprziborowski@aol.com - Also, visit my websites at www.chabotfire.com and www.code3firetraining.com for more information to assist you with your next promotional examination or career development needs!

Class Details:

San Ramon, CA	
Dates:	Monday October 4 <u>and</u> Tuesday October 5 <u>and</u> Wednesday October 6, 2010
Location:	San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District Administration Classroom 1500 Bollinger Canyon Road San Ramon, CA 94583
Time:	0900 to 1700 hours each day
Cost:	\$330.00 for the three-day session

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE I.A.F.F.:

Safety Health and Survival Week Is June 20-26, 2010



The IAFF and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) are sponsoring the 2010 Safety, Health and Survival Week in partnership with more than 20 national fire service organizations.

Themed "Fit for Duty," this year's Safety, Health and Survival Week is designed to encourage fire departments to suspend all non-emergency activity and instead focus entirely on safety, health and wellness-related training and education until all shifts and personnel have taken part. An entire week is provided to ensure each shift and duty crew can spend one day focusing on these critical issues.

With more than 50 percent of fire fighter line-of-duty deaths caused by health and fitness-related issues, both the IAFF and IAFC believe it's imperative that there be a concentrated effort in implementing wellness and fitness programs.

Safety Week will address a variety of topics important to all fire fighters and EMS personnel and focuses on helping fire departments implement their own programs to prepare fire fighters and EMS personnel with healthy habits that reduce the risk of many chronic diseases, such as heart disease, hypertension, diabetes and certain cancers, thereby increasing the chance for a longer and healthier life.

Recommended areas of concentration include:

- General Health and Wellness

- Food and Nutrition
- Fitness
- Stress Management
- Smoking and Smokeless-Tobacco Cessation
- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Infectious Diseases
- Suicide Prevention

In addition, Safety Week is an opportunity to conduct comprehensive fitness assessments, medical screenings and educational programs that build and maintain medically and physically fit personnel and help in reducing health and fitness-related deaths or injuries.

Planning tools and resources are available [online](#) and include topic areas to support continuous efforts to promote personnel safety, health and wellness programs.

Updates are also available on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

For more information, email safety@iaff.org or call (202) 824-9304.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Looking to increase your fire service knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) or obtain some initial or continuing education?**
- **Check out some of the various fire service & EMS training conferences and seminars around the United States:**

Firehouse Expo – *Baltimore, MD* - July 20 through 25, 2010

Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – *Chicago, IL* - August 24 through 28, 2010

Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

TAK – RESPONSE – *San Jose, CA* - September 14 through 16, 2010

Go to www.takresponse.com for more information.

Firehouse Central – *Dallas, TX* - September 27 through October 1, 2010

Go to www.firehousecentral.com for more information.

California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium – *Fresno, CA* - November 15 through 19, 2010 - Go to <http://register.calchiefs.org/> for more information.

Firehouse World – *San Diego, CA* - February 26 through March 2, 2011

Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) – *Indianapolis, IN* – March 21 through 26, 2011 - Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The **Santa Clara County Fire Department**
Invites Applications for:

Firefighter /Engineer assigned to Paramedic Duty

For more information about the **Santa Clara County Fire Department**, including the application process, information on the position, as well as what is required to apply, please visit their website at: www.sccfd.org

**CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT)
INFORMATION:**

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) is a must have for any person planning on becoming a firefighter. More and more departments are requiring a candidate to possess a CPAT completion card (no older than one year) just to apply for their department. If you do not possess a current CPAT, you do not pass go, you do not collect two hundred dollars, and you miss out on the opportunity to compete for a firefighter position at many departments. The CPAT does not guarantee that you will be a successful firefighter.

Successfully passing the CPAT means that you should be able to enter a firefighter academy at a reasonable level of fitness appropriate to the job. I encourage you to learn more about the CPAT, and also look into having this certificate on your resume. Trust me, this may be an eye-opener for some – many of you will not pass it the first time. Make sure you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots are so you can focus on those areas.

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

Southern California:

626 N. Eckhoff Street
Orange, CA 92868

Northern California

526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

Sacramento Area:

1329 N. Market Blvd., #100
Sacramento, CA 95834

To see the **available dates** to take the CPAT at any of the above three locations, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

FIRE SERVICE INFO FROM THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:



Golf Opportunities Are Still Available - Reserve Your Spot at One of Our 2010 Golf Tournaments Today!



The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournaments have become an important source of revenue for supporting NFFF programs. Since the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation receives no direct government funding, it must rely upon grants; individual and corporate contributions; and fundraising events to support its programs. Proceeds from these events enable surviving families and co-workers of fallen firefighters to attend the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend held each October. These funds also help to endow scholarships for family members of fallen firefighters, and to provide logistical and emotional support to departments coping with a line-of-duty death.

Supporting the Foundation...18 Holes at a Time Come Golf With Us at One of Our Regional Tournaments

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| June 2010 | September 2010 |
| » Ithaca, NY - June 28, 2010 | » Geneva, IL - September 10, 2010 |
| » Urbandale, IA - June 29, 2010 | » North Texas - September 10, 2010 |
| July 2010 | » Rockford, IL - September 10, 2010 |
| » Alamo, TN - July 7, 2010 | » St. John's, SC - September 10, 2010 |
| » Erie, PA - July 9, 2010 | » Prescott Valley, AZ - September 11, 2010 |
| » Glendale Heights, IL - July 16, 2010 | » Butler, PA - September 20, 2010 |
| » West Grove, PA - July 16, 2010 | October 2010 |
| » Mountain Home, ID - July 17, 2010 | » Orange Co./Jefferson Co., TX - October 16, 2010 |
| September 2010 | November 2010 |
| » Anchorage, AK - September 10, 2010 | » Naples, FL - |

EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:

The **San Francisco Paramedic Association** is looking for volunteers for the following upcoming EMS related classes:

- Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Classes - Volunteers Needed -

Dates / Locations / Times:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thursday July 8, 2010 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>) - Friday July 9, 2010 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>) <p>**Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer.</p>
You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
To register / More information:	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php

- Advanced Medical Life Support Classes: Volunteers Needed

Dates / Locations / Times:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wednesday July 21, 2010 from 1230 to 1700 hours - Thursday July 22, 2010 from 1030 to 1700 hours - Wednesday September 15, 2010 from 1230 to 1700 hours - Thursday September 16, 2010 from 1030 to 1700 hours <p>**Go to their website: www.sfparamedics.org & click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates & times and to register as a volunteer.</p> <p>NOTE: <u>All of the above classes will be held at the S.F. Paramedic Association Offices in San Francisco – 657 Mission Street, Suite 302</u></p>
You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a medical emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
To register / More information:	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

If you want to become a firefighter, have you started taking fire department examinations yet? If not, what are you waiting for? If you say you're not ready, you'll probably never be ready. If you want to wait until you finish your degree, then you're going to have wasted about two (or more) valuable years that could have been spent learning how to master the fire service testing process. You should be taking every fire service exam you qualify for – what's the worst that can happen if you take a test? If nothing else, you will hopefully start to learn your strengths and weaknesses and what it takes to become a firefighter. Don't rely on us to provide you with every fire department that is accepting applications. We only send out a small fraction of the current open firefighter positions across the United States. If you truly want to become a firefighter, put your money where your mouth is and subscribe to a fire testing service that will notify you when fire departments across the United States are accepting applications.

Two of the best fire testing notification services I have seen are:

- www.firerecruit.com

- www.firecareers.com

For less than \$100.00 per year (each), those companies (run by firefighters) will provide you with valuable testing information to help save you time and effort. Becoming a firefighter is not an easy task, and the badge will not drop from the sky into your lap. Don't wait for your friends to tell you about testing opportunities or expect to hear about them from us. That is not our job, to replace such companies.

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has received notice of the following firefighter fatalities:

Name:	Donnie Caldwell
Rank:	Lieutenant
Age:	74
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	20
Date of Incident:	01/30/2007
Time of Incident:	1043hrs
Date of Death:	05/13/2010
Fire Department:	Ghent Area Volunteer Fire Department
Address:	PO Box 99, 2651 Flat Top Road, Ghent, WV 25843
Fire Department Chief:	James Belcher

Incident Description: Lieutenant Caldwell, one of the firefighters injured in the 2007 Little General Store explosion in Ghent, West Virginia, has passed away from complications
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related to the injuries he sustained in the blast. The propane explosion killed two other firefighters at the incident scene, Captain Fred Burroughs, and Firefighter-EMT Craig Dorsey. Two propane service technicians were also killed and five other people were injured. The explosion leveled the store, destroyed a responding ambulance, and damaged other nearby vehicles. A report from the investigation of the fatal incident conducted by the [United States Chemical Safety Board](http://www.csb.gov/assets/document/CSBFinalReportLittleGeneral.pdf) can be found at:
<http://www.csb.gov/assets/document/CSBFinalReportLittleGeneral.pdf>.

Incident Location: US 19 & Flat Top Lake Road.

Funeral Arrangements: Blue Ridge Funeral Home Chapel, 05/17/2010 @ 1300hrs.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Lieutenant Donnie Caldwell, c/o Ghent Area Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 99, Ghent, WV 25843.

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant Donnie Caldwell at
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 28 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 26 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @
http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name:	Paul Johnson
Rank:	Fire Chief
Age:	63
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	20
Date of Incident:	05/19/2010
Time of Incident:	0142hrs
Date of Death:	05/19/2010
Fire Department:	Crow Roost Fire Department
Address:	Highway 152, Fort Cobb, OK 73038
Fire Department Chief:	Pending

Incident Description: Fire Chief Johnson passed away from an apparent heart attack while en route to a structure fire. Johnson was operating the department's pumper when he became ill and asked Fire Captain Cheri Poindexter, who was riding in the cab with him, to take the wheel as he slumped over and became unresponsive. Poindexter managed to get the rig stopped and immediately called a Mayday over the radio. Another Crow Roost apparatus, also responding to the incident, stopped to render aid with an AED they had on board. The firefighters worked on Chief Johnson for 20 minutes until a Carnegie Ambulance arrived and subsequently transported Johnson to the Carnegie Hospital where he succumbed to his injury.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Incident Location: Sooner Rd, Edmond, OK 73013.

Funeral Arrangements: 05/21/2010 @ 1400hrs, Eakley, OK; Interment to follow at the Binger Cemetery. A remembrance notice for Fire Chief Johnson will be posted on www.osfa.info.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Fire Chief Paul Johnson, c/o Perry Brinegar, ASCOG Rural Fire Defense Coordinator, PO Box 1647, Duncan, OK 73534-1647

Tribute is being paid to Fire Chief Paul Johnson at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 29 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 27 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from a previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name:	Kurt Meusel
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	25
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	10
Date of Incident:	05/22/2010
Time of Incident:	2114hrs
Date of Death:	05/22/2010
Fire Department:	Scales Mound Fire Protection District
Address:	130 N Franklin ST, Scales Mound, IL 61075
Fire Department Chief:	Carl Winters

Incident Description: Firefighter Meusel died from injuries sustained in a single motor vehicle accident while responding to a search and rescue incident.

Incident Location: North Mill Creek Road, south of East Brandt Road.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Kurt Meusel at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 30 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 28 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: David Curlin
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 40
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 14
Date of Incident: 01/03/2010
Time of Incident: 0515hrs
Date of Death: 05/22/2010
Fire Department: Pine Bluff Fire Department
Address: 200 E 8TH AVE, Pine Bluff, AR 71601-5006
Fire Department Chief: Dannie Smith

Incident Description: Lieutenant Curlin suffered numerous serious injuries from a wall and support beam collapse while operating at the scene of an office supply store fire in early January 2010. After a number of surgeries and ongoing hospital care, Lieutenant Curlin succumbed to his injuries.

Incident Location: 604 Main Street.

Funeral Arrangements: Viewing will be 05/27/2010 from 1600-2000hrs at Ralph Robinson and Son Funeral Directors, 807 S. Cherry ST, Pine Bluff, AR 71601. Funeral services will be 05/28/2010 at 1100hrs, Pine Bluff Convention Center, 500 E. 8TH AVE, Pine Bluff, AR 71601.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Lieutenant Curlin's family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be given to the Arkansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial Inc., PO Box 56470, Little Rock, AR 72215.

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant David Curlin at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 31 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 29 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: David IRR
Rank: Fire Captain
Age: 48
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 15
Date of Incident: 05/22/2010

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Time of Incident: 0730hrs
Date of Death: 05/22/2010
Fire Department: Yuma Rural/Metro Fire Department
Address: 2029 S Arizona AVE, Yuma, AZ 85364
Fire Department Chief: Fire Marshal Curt Foster

Incident Description: Captain IRR passed away in his sleep on duty and was discovered at shift change.

Incident Location: Yuma Rural/Metro Fire Department Station Two, 11741 Fortuna Rd.

Funeral Arrangements: A vigil will be held this 05/27/2010 1700-2100hrs at Desert Valley Mortuary 15877 S. Ave B in Somerton. A procession will be held on 05/25/2010 at 0900hrs starting at Desert Valley Mortuary, 15877 S. Ave B., Traveling to St Francis of Assisi Church 1815 S. 8th Ave Yuma AZ. Services will held at 1000hrs.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Captain David IRR, c/o the Rural/Metro Firefighters Fund, 2029 S Arizona AVE, Yuma, AZ 85364.

Tribute is being paid to Captain David IRR at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 33 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 31 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Donald A. Schneider Jr.
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 63
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 38
Date of Incident: 05/29/2010
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 05/29/2010
Fire Department: Belleville Fire Department
Address: PO Box 94, 33 E Main ST, Belleville, WI 53508-0094
Fire Department Chief: Tom Adams
Fire Department Website: <http://www.bellevillefd.org/index.jsp>

Incident Description: Firefighter Schneider passed away from an apparent heart attack while at the Belleville Fire Station.

Incident Location: 33 E Main ST, Belleville, WI 53508-0094

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation will be at the Becker-Beal Funeral Home, Belleville, on Wednesday June 2nd from 1600-2000hrs. Funeral services will be on Thursday, June 3 at 1100hrs at the First United Church of Christ, 130 E Church St, Belleville.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Donald A. Schneider Jr. at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 34 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 32 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

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USFA does not have a Line-of-Duty-Death (LODD) criterion nor does it make LODD determinations. "Please note, running totals of firefighter fatalities used on these initial notices do not necessarily reflect the number of firefighter fatalities used in totals for the (provisional) monthly year-to-date USFA firefighter fatality reports, or year-end (provisional) reports posted online at www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

Firefighter fatalities in USFA reports are summarized by date/year-of-incident. Initial notices posted online at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/> and distributed via USFA listserve do not represent the final on-duty firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor LODD determination made by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (www.firehero.org) for names added each subsequent year to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, they are the beginning of a research process for each firefighter fatality reported so that such determinations can be made.

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS
STORIES TO LEARN FROM, COURTESY OF
DEPUTY CHIEF BILLY GOLDFEDER & GORDON
GRAHAM, HOSTS OF www.firefighterclosecalls.com

Hey,

A high level of nitrogen is reported to be the cause of the incident where 3 Middletown (OH) Firefighters were injured and a Middletown worker was killed last week. The City of Middletown released the results of an independent test today which showed that **the air inside the manhole was 92 percent nitrogen and less than 3 percent oxygen**. Normal air breathed by humans is at least 21 percent oxygen and only 78 percent nitrogen. The investigation confirms that the lack of oxygen, coupled with high levels of nitrogen, would quickly lead to asphyxiation. In just two or three breaths or about 15 seconds, the person would become disoriented. The affected person would be unable to function and lose

consciousness in less than a minute. Within just a few minutes, brain function, breathing and heart action would stop. Middletown city officials are still trying to identify the source of the nitrogen. HERE is the Press Release:

<http://www.wlwt.com/download/2010/0514/23560402.pdf>

CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTER BURNED LATE THIS AFTERNOON:

A Firefighter was airlifted from the scene of a house fire in Indio (Riverside County, CA) for burn injuries around 1630 hours, PST today. 9 engine companies and 36 firefighters are operating at the dwelling fire. The house was well involved and the owner of the house also received serious burns while as trying to put out the fire. The owners are reported to be roofers for a living, have propane tanks in their back yard and one report indicates some explosions. The injured Firefighter was airlifted to a burn center in San Bernardino County. Updates will be posted on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-14-10 / 2112 Hours

AND:

SURVIVOR OF 2007 WEST VIRGINIA EXPLOSION DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

The Secret List www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com (SEE VIDEO LINK BELOW)

Donnie Caldwell, a Volunteer Firefighter from Cool Ridge (W. VA) and one of the survivors of the Ghent explosion has died from complications from the injuries he sustained during the blast. Caldwell was one of the Firefighters who responded to the Little General Gas Station in Ghent in January 2007 on reports of a gas leak. Moments later, the building exploded. Lt. Caldwell suffered serious lung and brain injuries from the blast. Caldwell, 74, leaves behind a large family including four children, 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Four people were initially killed-now that number is 5. Killed in the Line of Duty were career EMT Craig Dorsey II, 24, and Fred Burroughs, 52, a volunteer and former chief of Ghent VFD. The other two people killed were private gas company workers. Others were injured. Investigators from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board highlighted three major causes of the explosion; inadequate propane technician, emergency training, and unsafe propane tank placement. Investigators said the explosion did come from inside the building.

HERE is the report, photos and **OUTSTANDING** video:

<http://www.csb.gov/investigations/detail.aspx?SID=10>

The funeral is set for tomorrow (Monday) at 1300 at the Blue Ridge Funeral Home Chapel. Following the services, Caldwell's body will be carried by fire engine to the family cemetery for burial. Our sincere condolences.

RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS STRIKES PEDESTRIAN

A pedestrian who didn't hear the sirens of an oncoming fire truck as he listened to his "ear phones" was critically injured when he stepped in front of the apparatus and was hit this morning on the South Side of Chicago. The male was critically injured when he stepped into the path of that Chicago fire apparatus that had its lights and sirens activated. The victim was transported and is critical condition.

OPINION: WHY THE BRONX BURNED AND WHY IT MAY APPLY TO CITIES TODAY.

Joe Flood is the author of "The Fires: How a Computer Formula, Big Ideas, and the Best of Intentions Burned Down New York City - and Determined the Future of Cities" (Riverhead Publishing) which will be out on May 27. We have had a chance to review it. Outstanding. You will want to read it. In the meantime, check out his related thoughts and opinion (interview also below):<http://www.thebravest.com/FDNYNewsArchive/10/05/16a.htm>

MORE FROM JOE FLOOD:

What happens when politicians paint by the numbers? ... when smart people use advanced statistical formulas to cut vital public services based on academic assumptions? It's a great time to ask these questions. Joe Flood has written a book about the city's fetish for efficiency in the 1970s, and how its over reliance on smart guys and computer formulas turned out be a disaster, especially when it came to the withdrawal of fire protection from the poorer neighborhoods.

JOE FLOOD INTERVIEW:

<http://tinyurl.com/2cugx9b>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-16-10 / 1956 Hours

AND:

Hey,

While we don't live in Westport (CT), we couldn't help but pass this story on to you related to the same issues most FD's are dealing with-the budget. It seems however, in Westport, that the WLPG's (Westport Library Power Guns) HAVE the power-but have probably never dialed 9-1-1 for something being on fire.

In Westport it's Library YES! Fire Department NO!

Ever been to Westport?

Read on.

The "big guns" that the Westport Public Library gathered to whine before the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) last week were successful as their legislative body approved a \$45,000 restoration to the library's 2010-2011 budget by a 33 to 1 vote. **But wait-there's more.**

You see, that vote was the total opposite action by those "library-love'n" RTM folks to not restore \$150,000 to the Fire Department, and not even \$64,153 after a second motion failed, despite claims that public safety would be compromised.

The heart felt public comments from those "pleading" to keep the library open include:

"Our library is a secular church, "a spiritual place."

"Our library is a democratic institution that shores up Westport's home values."

"Our library is "a sanctuary for people suffering during these terrible economic times."

"Our library is a lifeline for the unemployed who use it for job searches during the economic downturn."

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

"Our library is a place where seniors needing to stretch a dollar can come for warmth when they turn down their heat, or keep cool when they turn off their air conditioners."

And probably, the most heart tugging comment that made us grab the tissues and start wailing away was the one person who very emotionally recalled how "a librarian helped teach him to tie his tie as a teen before a job interview when his father was unavailable." **Local Government at its best.**

Actually, we can help eliminate that excuse: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5g-nn_P5TgE

So sadly, only a couple of RTM members pleaded the need to fight their Fire Department's \$150,000 cut, a cut that Fire Chief Christopher Ackley said will result in the temporary closing of 2 firehouses. "I do agree that we need to keep our taxes low, but we do not want to be penny wise and pound foolish," RTM member Joyce Colburn said about their Fire Dept: **"This is like buying insurance."** RTM member George Underhill said that the Board of Finance acted irresponsibly in cutting the Fire Department's budget. **"We need this, and we should not even be talking about," he said.**

The motion to restore the \$150,000 cut **failed** by a vote of 18 to 15, and another motion to restore \$64,000 failed to get 23 votes, a 70 percent majority, by a 20 to 12 vote. **JUST SAY NO.**

"We'll do what we have to do," said Chief Ackley as he left the auditorium. "It's just that in the long run, I hope no one gets hurt." Mr Underhill was even more clear after the vote. "I don't want to be responsible for some kid burning up because they were three minutes late because it (fire truck) had to come from a greater distance," he said. Well who else would be responsible? Better get that retro-sprinkler law drawn up FAST. OK-so now you are wondering what's the big deal? WHY does this matter? ALL towns are going through "tough times." Why is the "Westport Story" so important to pass along? Simply put, in 08' Westport was named the fifth top-earning city in the United States, with a median family income of \$193,540 and median home price of \$1,200,000. In comparison, the median annual household income was \$50,233.00 for the United States*. **That's the same Westport that will not support \$150,000 to keep their firehouses open 24/7.**

SO while many fire departments across the USA get obliterated for some very unjustified reasons, keep in mind that the good residents of Westport **DO** have a spiritual place, a place that increases their home values, a place to cool off in the Summer and warm up in the Winter and most importantly: a place where "a kid can learn how to tie their tie." And here you go, a video that fits nicely including making sure a tie fits perfectly. After all, we ARE talking about Westport. And it's no big deal-not until "someone" has a fire and then-following "that" fire, they'll undoubtedly have an "emergency" town meeting with Chief Ackley. Maybe they'll have that meeting in the library.It's enough to make you go crazy. It's enough to make you mad. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F58TfYHqLak> (Note initial tie adjustment demonstration)

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-17-10 / 0200 Hours

www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

*Source: <http://tinyurl.com/3326znh>

AND:

The first report on the Dec. 29 (2010) explosion that killed St. Anna Firefighter Steven "Peanut" Koeser in the Line of Duty is linked below. The fire and explosion also injured eight other Firefighters that night. **Without question, we feel this could have happened to literally ANY of us at any FD and emphasizes the need to pre-plan - as well as understand that literally anything can be in a dumpster-and our size-up, plans and actions must reflect that.**

While the NIOSH report will be out soon, the state of Wisconsin Fire Marshal's Office and the Calumet County Sheriff's Department states that the dumpster contained aluminum alloy shavings and 55-gallon steel barrels of aluminum oxide dross, or slag.

The report (below) on the LODD is based upon the statements of St. Anna Fire Chief Robert Thome, who was one of the first to arrive. Chief Thome saw an 18-inch "cherry red" hotspot at the base of the trash bin. Using a ladder to look inside the bin, he noticed one barrel that appeared to be very hot and saw sparks coming from aluminum shavings and other materials that were burning. Firefighters sprayed water on the contents, which produced a lot of steam and bluish-green flames. Chief Thome requested then that foam be added to the hose stream, but that intensified the production of sparks. Chief Thome began to signal for the foam to be stopped, and as he was turning away from the Dumpster, the explosion occurred.

The explosion peeled back a wall of the dumpster. Eight 55-gallon barrels were found around the damaged container, and two barrels were found inside. Investigators discovered several holes in the side of the bin where the steel had melted through. One MSDS sheet about the involved materials says "may become unstable at high temperatures." Safety instructions for these specific aluminum casting alloys caution against using water or moist sand during firefighting. The instructions say a **"fire or explosion may occur when material is in the form of dust and exposed to heat or flames, chemical reaction, or contact with powerful oxidizers."**

The instructions conclude, **"Never put water on molten metal - it will explode."**

Another sheet recommends for fires involving aluminum fines or chips, firefighters should use dry sand or Class D (combustible metals) extinguishing agents. "Do not use water or other liquids, foams or halogenated extinguishing agents," it says. Or, depending upon conditions, it may be best to let it burn and clear the area. Depending upon conditions and resources.

Pre-planning of commercial and industrial buildings can help but never completely solve the questions related to "what's in that dumpster." **We never know.**

HERE is the report:

<http://www.doj.state.wi.us/news/files/StAnnaFirefighterDeath.pdf>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-18-10 / 2150 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The IAFF and the Prince George's County, MD, Fire/EMS Department conducted a field test of the new "flat pack" self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Prince George's County fire fighters participated in the field test, held yesterday at the department's training academy in Cheltenham. They were joined by 12 fire fighters and four law enforcement officers from surrounding municipalities, including Washington, D.C., Fairfax County and Montgomery County, in rigorously testing the new SCBA. Firefighters went through several evolutions with traditional SCBA and then repeated the same evolution with the flat pack SCBA. After each evolution firefighters completed an evaluation form describing the pros and cons of the SCBA. This new SCBA technology will be available to fire departments once extensive testing is complete. Go to our home page at www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com for photos of the field tests and more details courtesy of the IAFF and Prince Georges County Fire-EMS Chief Spokesperson Mark Brady.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-19-10 / 1450 Hours

AND:

RURAL METRO FIRE CAPTAIN-YUMA COUNTY (AZ) LODD-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret that we advise you that we have been notified of the Line of Duty Death of a Rural Metro Fire Department (Arizona) Captain. The Captain, in Yuma County this morning, was discovered deceased this morning at shift change following an 0200 Hours EMS run. We'll post more details tomorrow. As always, our most sincere condolences.

SHAWNEE (KS) LODD UPDATE:

Shawnee fire officials are still trying to figure out what caused the fire that killed 33 year old Firefighter John Glaser in the Line of Duty last night, after searching for reported victims. When companies arrived at the home on Saturday night, (for what was initially an automatic fire alarm) there were heavy smoke and fire conditions-Firefighters were told there were two people and a dog inside the dwelling. Firefighter Glaser was the first one members inside the home and was part of the crew that found and rescued the dog. For a yet undetermined reason, he became separated from his crew and called for help-and other crews went in to help. The Firefighters found Glaser unresponsive near the back of the home, he was rescued, was treated by paramedics and transported to the hospital where he later died. FF Glaser was married and the father of two young children. More to follow.

"HE'S GOT A GUN" CLOSE CALL FOR FLORIDA FIREFIGHTERS

Yesterday, Port Orange Fire Lt. Carrasquillo and his crew of firefighter/paramedics responded to a two-car crash. The call turned out to be a most memorable one for Lt. Carrasquillo, an experience he's never had in more than two decades working at the Port Orange FD. An accident victim threatened him with a handgun. "After 23 years of doing the same thing, I never expected anything like this," the Lieutenant said today. "At that moment my kids went through my mind and my wife went through my mind." Donald Brooks, 62, was slumped over the steering wheel of a Jeep involved in the crash. Lt Carrasquillo went to help Brooks, but instead was met with an angry, psycho, armed man who swiftly raised a handgun

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

and tried to point it at the Fire Lieutenant. But before that could happen, Lt. Carrasquillo dove into the driver's side of Brooks' Jeep and grabbed the muzzle of the .40-caliber Glock. "Next thing I knew, one of the (police) officers was climbing over me. He Tasered him (Brooks), but he kept fighting. I was finally able to wrestle the gun out of his hands while the officer kept Tasering him." "You're going to have to kill me ... I'm not going to jail," Brooks reportedly stated. More **HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/23q7dot>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-23-10 / 2158 Hours

AND:

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER LODD-CRASH DURING SEARCH

A 25-year-old Scales Mound (IL) Volunteer Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty in an ATV rollover crash last night while he was involved in a missing person search. FF Kurt M. Meusel was searching when the ATV struck a deer in the roadway and he rolled over-suffering fatal injuries. More details will follow. As always, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 5-23-10 / 1310 hours

AND:

ARKANSAS FIRE LIEUT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-SUCCUMBS ARKANSAS FIRE LIEUT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES FOLLOWING JANUARY COMMERCIAL BUILDING FIRE

We regret to advise you that Pine Bluff (Ark) Fire Lieutenant David Curlin, who was critically injured on Sunday, January 3, 2010, and had been fighting for his life since, died in The Line of Duty this afternoon. A collapse at a fire that morning had left 1 him in critical condition with numerous traumatic injuries. Companies were operating at the commercial building fire (reported to be an office supply business) when there was some type of collapse, and a beam struck and trapped the Lieutenant. He leaves behind his wife and young children. Details to follow. As always our most sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 5-22-10 / 2053 hours

AND

SHAWNEE (KS) FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MISSING DWELLING FIRE

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Firefighter with the Shawnee FD has died in the Line of Duty. Initial reports are that the Firefighter (while searching for reported victims) had become separated from his crew, a Mayday for that missing FF was transmitted and he was found several minutes later. A second Firefighter was treated and released from a hospital. The Firefighter was 33 years old and had 6 years on the department. He leaves behind a wife and two children. The fire was reported by automatic alarm at 2055 Hours last night and when companies arrived, they reported a working fire. Neighbors told Firefighters they thought 2 occupants were inside-however-the family was later found to not be home. While companies were conducting their searches, at around 2112 hours, a mayday was

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transmitted by the Officer because a Firefighter was missing. Several Firefighters searched and later found the Firefighter not breathing and in cardiac arrest. We will post more details later. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected.

SOURCE OF GAS FOUND IN OHIO FIREFIGHTER CLOSE CALL

The source of a nitrogen leak that injured 2 Middletown Firefighters and killed a city worker has been identified as leaks were detected in lines running from 2 industrial businesses: Air Products & Chemicals and AK Steel Corporation. The city is evaluating options for repairing the nitrogen lines. Afterward, the city will continue to test the area to make sure it's safe. Air Products said it has worked with investigators and as part of the investigation "discovered some previously undetected leaks in its piping and is focused on one larger leak that may have contributed to the decreased oxygen levels. However, the pathway of the nitrogen into the manhole has not been identified and is still under investigation." Air Products said pending the outcome of the investigation, it would make any necessary repairs to its pipes. AK Steel said that it conducted testing on its own pipes and determined that it was not the source of the nitrogen in the sewer where the worker died.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-23-10 / 0655 Hours

www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

AND

Services for **Shawnee, KS Firefighter John Glaser** who died in the line of duty May 22, 2010 are as follows:

Visitation: 4 pm to 8 pm Wednesday May 26, 2010 at the Church of the Resurrection 13720 Roe Avenue Leawood, Kansas

Services: Fire apparatus procession will leave the Amos Funeral Home located at 10901 Johnson Drive Shawnee, Kansas at 09:30 am. The procession will proceed West on Johnson Drive to Nieman road, South on Nieman to 65th Street, West to Quivira, South on Quivira past Shawnee Station #71 at 6501 Quivira, Proceed South on Quivira to 135th Street, East on 135th to Roe then South to the church where the funeral services will take place at 10:30am.

A memorial fund for Firefighter Glaser's family is being established and contributions can be made by contacting any Bank of America under:

JOHN GLASER MEMORIAL FUND

or

Mail in donations:

Bank of America c/o John Glaser Memorial Fund

175 Claireborne Road

Olathe, KS, 66062

Departments wishing to send fire apparatus for the procession should contact Chief Dan Rhodus of the Lenexa Fire Department at 913-238-4476

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-24-10 / 2238 Hours

AND

Hey,

A Virginia Volunteer Firefighter responding to a traffic crash Saturday night struck and killed a teen skateboarder in Gloucester. The skateboarder was riding his skateboard southbound lane when he was struck about 2055 hours. The driver of the Nissan minivan was Karen Jowers, a 56-year-old member of Gloucester Volunteer Fire and Rescue. Jowers was responding to a nearby crash with injuries. Jowers' speed at the time she struck Johnson is under investigation, but she did have operating red and white strobe lights on her vehicle. There is no evidence that Jowers was under the influence of alcohol, impaired or did anything wrong. The skateboarder, Johnson, was wearing dark clothing and was not wearing a helmet or reflective clothing at the time he was struck. State law bars people from playing on a highway so riding a skateboard in the road would fall into that category and would be considered a traffic infraction. More to follow once the investigation is complete.

NEW JERSEY FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN IRAQ

A 26-year-old Fort Bliss soldier has died of injuries incurred in a noncombat-related incident in Iraq last week. Spc. Stanley J. Sokolowski of Ocean, N.J., died in Kirkuk, Iraq last Thursday. The details contains no information on the nature of the loss. Sokolowski was assigned to Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss. Sokolowski was both a Long Branch and Oakhurst NJ Firefighter. It is believed that he was working as a Firefighter in the Army. Our sincere condolences.

MORE SPRINKLER BS :

Here is a piece from PA where once again, our theory that one of the primary reasons most Homebuilder Associations oppose residential sprinklers, is the business and profit to be gained by re-building homes that have burned. As you'll read: "Sprinklers are absolutely not necessary," & "Sprinklers do not save lives. They save property." Check it out:

<http://tinyurl.com/34bm69h>

ARKANSAS LODD FUNERAL DETAILS:

Notification for arrangements for Arkansas Fire Lieutenant David Curlin Line of Duty Death who died following a wall collapse: Visitation: Thursday, May. 27, 2010 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm- Ralph Robinson & Son-Pine Bluff, AR. Funeral Services: Friday, May. 28, 2010 11:00 am, Pine Bluff Convention Center

ILLINOIS LODD FUNERAL DETAILS:

Notification for arrangements for Illinois Firefighter Kurt Meusel Line of Duty Death who was killed in a crash: Wake Information: May 26, 2010,15:30 hours to 20:30 hours, Shepherd of the Hill Church. Funeral Service: May 27, 2010,10:00 hours ,Shepherd of the Hill Church,Scales Mound, Il 61075. Due to the location of service there will be limited space, no apparatus.

KANSAS LODD FUNERAL DETAILS:

Notification for arrangements for Kansas Firefighter John Glaser who was killed while searching a house fire. Funeral services for John Glaser will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave. in Leawood. The Shawnee FD's procession will leave the Amos Funeral Home, 10901 Johnson Drive in Shawnee, at 9:30 a.m. and make its way through the city to the church.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-25-10 / 0921 Hours

AND:

Hey,

2 Liberty Township Firefighters (near Muncie, Indiana) are reported unconscious, hospitalized in critical condition this evening after an attempted technical rescue. Reports are that fumes in a well pit outside a home caused 2 civilians serious injuries and then the 2 Firefighters as well. According to Liberty Township Fire Chief Brent Divine, a plumber working in the well pit was overcome by the fumes late this afternoon. A civilian then attempted to rescue the plumber, but he too was overcome by the fumes. The fumes were reportedly caused by sulphur acid which is used in well repairs. The first 2 Liberty Township Firefighters to arrive at the scene, ex-Chief Rick Compton Sr. and FF Brian Buck, attempted to rescue those 2 men and they too were also overcome. All 4 men were unconscious when additional emergency personnel, using ropes and harnesses, were able to remove them from the 10-foot-deep pit. All were transported to Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie. **Updates will follow.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-26-10 / 2203 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The original victim from yesterdays technical rescue incident in Indiana has died and a Firefighter remains critical. The victim is 40 year old Eric J. Dalton, 40. 3 men (including 2 Firefighters) who attempted to save Dalton remain hospitalized and two of them are in critical condition. Mr. Dalton was overcome by fumes while using muriatic acid to repair a residential water well. Also seriously injured in the rescue attempt were Justin Benson, a 19-year-old who was working with Dalton, as well as responding Liberty Township Firefighters Brian Buck and Rick Compton. Mr. Benson, FF Buck and FF Compton all entered the well, following one another. Firefighters Buck and Compton responded to the emergency in their personal vehicles, without the benefit of PPE. Mr. Benson and Firefighter Buck remain in critical condition, while FF Compton is in stable condition. We will be providing updates and more information later.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-27-10 / 1113 Hours

AND:

Hey,

June 18, 2010

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

A North Carolina Firefighter who tragically caused a fatal crash Sunday has been charged with misdemeanor death by vehicle. FF Terry Allen Moore, 41, was also cited with passing in a no-passing zone-both citations by the N.C Highway Patrol. The victim, Doris Oddie, 76, died instantly. Firefighter Moore who was also a medical responder with the Union Fire Department, was responding in his personal vehicle to a medical emergency around 1230 hours and was displaying a red flashing light. Witnesses said FF Moore had passed several vehicles before coming up behind a line of vehicles which had slowed or stopped. The vehicles were behind the victims car, which had slowed and FF Moore thought the vehicles had slowed or stopped to allow him to pass. However, as he pulled out to pass, the victim made a left turn into her driveway and his vehicle struck the driver's side door, killing the victim instantly. In North Carolina, a flashing red light in the POV of a responding volunteer is a courtesy light only and is expected to follow all applicable laws.

Take Care-**BE CAREFUL.**

BillyG

The Secret List 5-25-10 / 2110 Hours

AND:

Hey,

In Orange County (NY) 2 apparatus collided while responding on runs this afternoon-**we have photos posted on our home page.** Apparatus from the City of Middletown FD (100' rear mount tower ladder) and the Pocatello Fire Company (medium duty rescue/pumper) collided at the intersection of County Route 78 and Wawayanda Avenue sending 3 Firefighters to the hospital. Initial reports are that some injuries were serious, but non life threatening and that both rigs suffered significant damage. Both rigs were responding lights & sirens to 2 different runs at the time when they entered the intersection. Middletown uses career drivers and the tower had only the driver on board and the PFC apparatus had 2 Firefighters on board. We'll update as it becomes available.

FIREFIGHTER CLOSE CALL VIDEO-WORKING STRUCTURE FIRE IN D.C.

As Dave Statter from Statter911 wraps up his TV career, he has been conducting raids of the archive room at Channel 9 in an effort to get some of the old material on the web before he departs. This video (link below) is a working fire shot by the late Sheldon Levy in January, 1994. Sheldon was their overnight photographer, a member of the Rockville VFD and very well respected in the Metro DC area fire service. This video is of a fire in the 2100 block of 14th Street, NW. The companies had come from other fires with everything already wet and then freezing. Members of DCFD Rescue Squad 2 were doing a primary search when they were forced to bail.

CHECK OUT THIS "VINTAGE" FIRE VIDEO from Dave Statter911: <http://tinyurl.com/3aa03yl>

MEMORIAL DAY 2010:

Our sincere thanks to all those who have served and who are serving in our armed forces as we honor you, and we remember all those who have passed, on Memorial Day 2010.

Take Care-**BE CAREFUL.**

BillyG

The Secret List-Memorial Day 2010 - 2036 Hours

AND:

Hey,

One of the firefighting boats exclusively recorded quite a bit of what happened in the hours after the fire started resulting in what will be the worst environmental disaster in American history. The video was given exclusively to the below media from someone on the boat. He believes BP could have done more to stop the fire and save lives. And he believes the video proves him right. Hmm-BP is starting remind us of some city halls that are stupidly and cluelessly cutting fire/rescue costs to the bone-or worse-and thinking that nothing will go wrong. **And then one day, it's time to pay the piper.** More on that later.

Check the FIRE video out HERE:

<http://www.todaystmj4.com/news/local/95285999.html>

CAPE COD FIREFIGHTERS HURT-SMOKE EXPLOSION-SHORT STAFFING:

In the Town of Sandwich, Firefighters Daniel Keane and Lee Burrill were the only ones available at the time of the alarm to immediately respond to a large LWWT house fire that soon went to 3 alarms. They positioned a hose line shortly after 1230 hours attempting to hold the fire when suddenly an explosion rocked the 5,000-square-foot home. The impact sent FF's Keane and Burrill flying backward so violently they broke through the deck railings and landed about 30 or 40 feet from where they started. **They were critically injured.**

Keane, a Firefighter/Paramedic, has a broken neck and a broken back. Burrill, also a firefighter/paramedic, has a badly fractured ankle, and was being taken from Cape Cod Hospital to a Boston hospital last night. **Like in most short staffed areas, the first crew found itself overwhelmed by the fire and then other arriving members then needed to take care of the injured firefighters. Other Firefighters had to drag the injured men away from the collapse zone of a three-story chimney and the chimney collapsed less than a minute after they were moved. Meanwhile the fire was moving fast through the large house and the injured members "had to lie on the ground for 15 minutes while they waited for mutual aid.** Captain James Huska of the SFD perfectly summed it up: "We didn't have enough staff," he said. "We weren't able to get enough water on that fire quickly enough." We wish the men, the SFD and the mutual aid departments a rapid recovery. **MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/35k4hu9>

AUSTRIAN FIRE CHIEF KILLED-STRUCK BY APPARATUS:

An Austrian Fire Chief was killed in the Line of Duty yesterday. The commander of the volunteer fire department of St. Peter's was on a storm related detail. It appears they were completing some tree removal services and the company Commander was struck or fell under the right rear of the approximately 13-ton vehicle. **HERE** are some links:

<http://www.feuerwehrmagazin.de/magazin/2010/05/17/unfall-kommandant-stirbt-bei-einsatz/>
<http://noe.orf.at/stories/443064/>

As always our most sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-1-10 / 0938 Hours

AND:

FIRE/EMS STAND DOWN:

June 18, 2010

www.chabotfire.com

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) through the Safety, Health and Survival Section (along with partnering fire service organizations) are urging all fire chiefs and fire/EMS officers to immediately issue a stand down in their departments due to two separate, but similar confined space rescue incidents that nearly took the lives of several Firefighters. During a stand down, personnel are directed to postpone non-emergency tasks to focus on related critical safety training. **In recent weeks, incidents involving confined space rescues in both Ohio and Indiana left the initial civilian victims dead and firefighters critically injured. In both cases, while heroic attempts were made to save the victims, Firefighters ended up becoming victims themselves.** In addition to federal, state and local laws, the IAFC Safety Health and Survival Section has identified below, a number of online resources for Fire/EMS Officers and personnel to use in this stand down and in their ongoing efforts to educate personnel on technical rescue operations.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR STAND DOWN ACTION:

(Click the link below and look to the right side column for numerous links related to suggested actions, drills and close call and near-miss related reports.

<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=531>

FULL DETAILS:

<http://www.iafc.org/displayindustryarticle.cfm?articlenbr=42979>

ALL OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS ARE RESPECTFULLY URGED TO REVIEW THE INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE LINKS ALONG WITH YOUR OWN SOP'S/SOG'S TO MINIMIZE FUTURE RELATED CLOSE CALL EVENTS.

The Secret List

Tuesday June 1, 2010

AND:

WISCONSIN FIREFIGHTER LODD-AT THE FIRE STATION-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Firefighter Donald (Don) Schneider, age 64, passed away of an apparent heart attack late Saturday evening at the Belleville (WI) Fire Station. Don was a member of Belleville Fire for 38 years, served Fire Inspector for over 21 years and is survived by one brother, James of Belleville. Visitation for Don will be at the Becker-Beal Funeral Home, Belleville on Wednesday June 2 from 4-8 PM Funeral services will be on Thursday, June 3 at 11:00 AM at the First United Church of Christ, 130 E Church St, Belleville. HERE is the obit: <http://madison.com/obit/144549> As always, our sincere condolences.

JERSEY CITY FIREFIGHTERS INJURED

JERSEY CITY FIRE CHIEF OFFERS HIS OPINION TO A POLITICIAN

2 items from Jersey City.

First is the 4 alarm fire that ripped through two buildings yesterday afternoon, displacing eight families and injuring 6 Firefighters. About 100 Firefighters from 27 companies operated and it was brought under control around 1700 hours. 6 Firefighters were taken to JC Medical Center suffering heat exhaustion and smoke inhalation. One Firefighter had to be removed

from one of the buildings because his SCBA ran out of air. All six firefighters are now in good condition.

FROM THE JERSEY CITY FIRE CHIEF.

You can read the entire letter yourself, but here is how the Fire Chief's letter ENDS: "If the plan is to turn the Jersey City Fire Department into a circus, hire a clown, as I will not jeopardize firefighter or public safety to appease soapbox finger pointing." MORE HERE:

<http://tinyurl.com/2aacz9r>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-1-10 / 1816 Hours

AND:

Hey,

This evening, the Chief of the Nashanic Fire Company which protects areas of Somerset County, NJ responded and arrived on the scene of a house fire. The fire was reported in the basement with smoke showing on arrival. As companies were working, interior crews called command several times-with no answer. Moments later, it was found that the Incident Commander-the Chief of Nashanic Fire Company was down, in cardiac arrest. Immediate life saving efforts including CPR, was started and he received several shocks from an AED that was on the scene with EMS. The Chief was revived and transported in critical but stable condition. More details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 6-1-10 / 2313 Hours

AND:

TEXAS EMS HELICOPTER CRASH-2 LODD

We regret to advise you that a CareFlite medical helicopter crashed this afternoon near Midlothian, in Ellis County, Texas killing the two crew members aboard in the Line of Duty. The FAA says the helicopter was based in Grand Prairie and was on a test flight when the aircraft went down near U.S. Highway 67. One pilot and an aircraft engineer died in the crash. CareFlite confirmed that there were no patients or passengers aboard. Another helicopter was in the area and landed to provide support, but they were unable to save the two on board. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-2-10 / 1916 hours

AND:

IRELAND: MEDIC FALLS OUT OF THE BACK OF AMBULANCE-DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Medic Simon Sexton, who reportedly fell while trying to shut the back doors of the ambulance he worked on in County Cavan in Ireland, died in the Line of Duty yesterday. The father-of-six was taken to Cavan General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The ambulance was transferring a non-emergency patient from Cavan Hospital to Dublin when the accident happened.

CLOSE CALL FOR OHIO FIREFIGHTERS-METH LAB EXPLOSION

3 bodies were found in the rubble of a burned home Wednesday afternoon in Franklin (Warren County, Ohio). Companies initially responded for a report of a field fire and upon arrival, it was actually a house fire. The 3 charred bodies were later found inside the home and the ranch-style house exploded and had burned to the ground before companies arrived. A bomb squad was called in just before noon because neighbors reported hearing an explosion around the time the fire was reported. Fire marshals confirmed that they found evidence of an explosion, which happened before the fire. FFD Chief Jonathan Westendorf said the home had been a working methamphetamine lab.

IN MICHIGAN:

Last night, a patient jumped out of an ambulance, ran along a highway, was hit by a vehicle and died at the scene. The 46-year-old man from Detroit was being transported in ambulance to a hospital for a psychiatric evaluation. As the ambulance was traveling on I-94 near mile marker 27 in St. Joseph Township, the man broke out of the back of the vehicle and ran on the highway for 20 minutes before being struck.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 6-4-10 / 1459 Hours

AND:

Hey,

To accompany the recent NIST FF Staffing report, here are some links to their video and overview as well.

Additionally, as a reminder, **FIRE DEPARTMENTS** considering or going through brownouts, staffing cuts and related layoffs and service reductions are urged to also **CONTACT I.S.O.** to determine **WHAT IMPACT** those cuts may have-specifically related to local insurance costs:

I.S.O. CONTACT & INFO: <http://tinyurl.com/2crgus5>

TALK to I.S.O. (Questions) <http://tinyurl.com/23cdvde>

Fire INFORMATION: <http://tinyurl.com/2u4glqv>

SPECIAL LINK AND INFO FOR FIRE CHIEFS: <http://tinyurl.com/yjw5syl>

NIST VIDEO:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNm3sYeXoAw&feature=player_embedded#!

NIST REPORT OVERVIEW & VIDEO:

http://www.nist.gov/bfrl/fire_research/residential-fire-report_042810.cfm

FULL NIST REPORT:

http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/download/file_id/4597

FOLLOWUP: MORE EXCELLENT CONFINED SPACE RESOURCES:

<http://www.isfsi.org/> (Directly on ISFSI's** front page)

<http://www.asse.org/broadcasts/confined-spaces-techbrief9-24-09.html> (ASSE)

(* IF you don't BELONG to **ISFSI**, take a look **HERE**: <http://tinyurl.com/29szwt2> We have for many years, it is an outstanding group to be a part of and offers some incredible **FIRE** resources-check'm out!)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 6-5-10 / 1458 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Union Springs (NY) Assistant Fire Chief was seriously burned early this evening when fuel apparently exploded in one of the department's amphibious rescue vehicles. Steven Kalet, 35, 1st Assistant Chief at the Union Springs VFD, was moving a DUKW, a/k/a "a Duck," out of the firehouse around 1600 when a fuel leak reportedly caused the explosion. Chief Kalet was flown by helicopter to Upstate University Hospital where he is in serious condition tonight. Chief Kalet was preparing to perform maintenance on the unit as the department prepared for the seasons weather when boaters and swimmers crowd the finger lakes. We wish the Chief a rapid recovery. Updates to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-7-10 / 2240 Hours

AND:

Hey,

As most of you know, the NFPA calculates FF LODD's a bit differently than the USFA, NFFF, IAFF etc. Why? They have been doing it for years-well before most others were-and they continue to maintain their preferred standard. Either way-the info is good, as much as we do support the need for one standard in reporting. With no surprise, cardiac related deaths remain # 1-as shown in the USFA and other related LODD reports. READ the report-there is some excellent information in it (link below).

For the first time in three years, the number of on-the-job firefighter deaths in the United States has dropped below 100. Their annual Firefighter Fatality Report, released yesterday shows a sharp drop in the number of fatalities in 2009. Eighty-two firefighters were killed in the line of duty last year, substantially fewer than the 10-year average of 98 and down even more from the 105 killed in 2008. This is the lowest annual total since NFPA recorded 79 deaths in 1993 and the third lowest total since NFPA began this study in 1977.

"While a drop over one year certainly isn't enough to show a trend, it is definitely encouraging to see the number of firefighter fatalities drop well below that 10-year average," said Rita Fahy, NFPA's manager of fire databases and systems. "We are hopeful that we will continue to see fewer and fewer firefighter fatalities over the next 10 years." Each year, NFPA collects data on all firefighter fatalities in the U.S. that resulted from injuries or illnesses that occurred while the victims were on-duty. The report is a compelling picture of the risks to the nation's firefighters.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

As in most years, the number one cause of on-duty firefighter fatalities was sudden cardiac death. While the number of such deaths has been trending downwards since the late 1970s, sudden cardiac death still accounted for 39 percent of the on-duty deaths in the last five years, and 42 percent in 2009 alone, underscoring the need for wellness-fitness programs and health screenings for firefighters across the nation.

Other key findings in the report include:

=There were six deaths at five intentionally-set fires in 2009. From 2000 through 2009, 60 firefighters (6.1 percent of all on-duty deaths) died in connection with intentionally-set fires. The number of these deaths annually has been dropping since 1985.

=There were nine deaths in crashes of road vehicles in 2009, a significant decline in the category that regularly accounts for the second largest share of deaths. This is the lowest total since 1983.

=Over the past 10 years, 29 firefighter deaths have resulted from false calls, including malicious false alarms and alarm malfunctions.

=Of the 82 firefighters who died while on duty, 41 were volunteer firefighters, 31 were career firefighters, while the remaining were employees or contractors of federal and local land management agencies or private fire safety crews.

=The NFPA report examines the types of duties associated with firefighter deaths, the cause and nature of fatal injuries to firefighters and the ages of the firefighters who died. The report highlights deaths in intentionally-set fires and in motor vehicle-related incidents. The study also presents summaries of individual incidents that illustrate important problems or concerns in firefighter safety.

The full NFPA report is available HERE: <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files//PDF/osfff.pdf>
HERE is the USFA LODD Report Information: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-8-10 / 0945 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Perhaps you have read about the fire that tragically killed a Virginia woman earlier this year. A report has now come out on that fire-but sadly I'll bet a lot of it sounds like some of the fires MANY of us have been on. You may very well recognize some of the issues at this fire from fires you have been on.

Keep reading.

The incident commander said that nothing could have prepared him for what he encountered, according to notes from his interview with a county investigating task

force. The interview is part of a numerous documents pulled together by the Spotsylvania County task force of Volunteer and Career Firefighters probing the incident.

What the Incident Commander encountered, at least from reading what we have, is that, (among other issues) is that fire companies and firefighters freelanced and ignored the commanders orders. WTF?! Sad but true.

It's tough enough for an Incident Commander to operate and lead their companies at a fire with reported victims, but then to have some companies NOT follow orders? Not follow SOP's?

Some of the issues the Incident Commander encountered included:

- =Some companies never reported to Command for duties-just did essentially what they wanted to.
- =Firefighters "freelanced" tasks on the fire ground without orders.
- =A Chief changed the water supply after it was already connected, without orders from Command.
- =A Chief Officer entered the building without his breathing apparatus.
- =Firefighter tracking and accountability was seriously lacking.
- =Some Firefighters communicated on the wrong radio channel, and others didn't have radios on.
- =Some Firefighters entered the structure without tools such as flashlights.
- =Initial arriving Firefighters never used a thermal imaging camera.
- =Command and others were never sure how many people were trapped.
- =The fire was extinguished within five minutes, but no one gave a progress report to Command by radio when the fire was out.
- =Firefighters on the 1st due arriving company never completed a walk around of the dwelling, which is a required step at that FD-and should be at every FD. Because they failed to do that, no one saw the trapped victims two bedroom windows on that side of the house.
- =Command ordered Firefighters to raise ground ladders to second-floor windows, but the task was never completed or followed up on.
- =Command said he did not tell Firefighters what tools to take with them to operate because he "assumed crews would take what was necessary."
- =Command expected crews to relay needs to him, but because some Firefighters were on the wrong channel, important details were not being communicated or heard.
- =The IC said there were too many informal operations being undertaken without orders.

Now clearly, the house did not have working smoke detectors, and maybe that would have solved the problem, but we have to expect and react to stuff like that. Fire departments RESPOND to fix BAD STUFF when all else has failed. However, it's 2010 and I am not sure a Fire Commander should have worry about commanding with companies doing as described above. As history has shown, EVERY ONE of the above issues (and more in the report below) has contributed to the deaths of Firefighters in the past. **You know, and I know that this problem is hardly just a Spotsylvania problem.**

WHEN COMMAND DOES NOT COMMAND, OR WHEN OFFICERS AND THEIR COMPANIES FAIL TO TRAIN AND FOLLOW SOP'S WITH COMMANDS ORDERS, WE

AND THE PUBLIC GREATLY INCREASE OUR OPPORTUNITY TO DIE. Not EVERYONE Goes Home.

Brotherhood? I got your Brother & Sisterhood right here. DO as ordered and trained if you want Brotherhood. Sure-"everyone" wants to "get in there" and do whatever they want. But that was then-this is now. Besides, it's not about what you or we want-it's all about what COMMAND wants and what the citizens need based upon conditions. Including greatly risking our lives when conditions warrant. Part of the job.

See, you're not home where Mom and Dad let you do whatever you want. You're at the **FIRE DEPARTMENT** and your training, SOP's, resources, conditions, size up and operations lead by CHIEFS and carried out at the task level by OFFICERS will direct you on what to do. And unless something is very wrong-we must do it as ordered. No voting. No whining. Just do it. This isn't always a democracy. It's not free play time. Free play time has killed Firefighters and Civilians. Free play time continues to be a problem in some areas. That's not good. **It will absolutely lead to more Firefighter and civilian deaths.**

A BLUE SOLUTION:

To most of you, the solution should be obvious. SOP's, Training, Response with Pre-Needed Resources, On-Scene Disciplined Operations, Training, Enforcement of Disciplined Operations, Training and more Training. And while HANDS ON training is critical, we (our area FD's) recently took a course that I specifically want to share with you.

Without question, I had to do a little re-learning and open my mind up a bit when taking this course, but I will be honest with you-if this training is conducted by and for your FD, and all those who respond to your fires take this training with you-and follow it, virtually NONE of the above issues will occur. I am talking about what is becoming known as **BLUE CARD FIRE COMMAND TRAINING** program.

Remember when you took your NIMS 300, 400 classes? Sure, it was sorta good but at least to me, it left a whole lot out related to the **day to day** fires (dwellings, stores, apartments etc) that we all respond to. BLUE CARD fills that gap.

The "Blue Card" fire command program is a very cool training and certification program that teaches Incident Commanders and Fire Officers how to standardize local incident operations across your organization as well as responding mutual aid/automatic aid FD's. It allows for YOUR LOCAL SOP's and operations-and actually supports them. The program uses a combination of online (read: do it at home **or** at the firehouse!) and in-class simulation training which results in an Incident Command solution that makes sense-and it all about the runs you make DAILY. Dwellings, Apartments (MFD's), Commercial, Industrial etc.

The training is based on very current applications of Chief Alan Brunacini's Fire Command book which has been around for over 30 years. Blue Card is designed to teach us and standard on "commanding" and operating at NIMS Type 4 and 5 incidents - which is what you respond to 99.99% of the time. Until Blue Card, there has not really been a clear training curriculum for Incident Commanders, Command and Company Officers at those incidents **YOU** respond to on a daily basis.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

To be clear, I have nothing to do with this program, I am not an instructor and nor do I have any business interests in it. But I am going through it and I wanted to share it with you as it is definitely worth checking out. From time to time, we will pass on a business or product that we think matters-and this is one of them.

Look, IF ANY OF THE ABOVE FIRE SCENE DESCRIPTIONS sound like YOUR FD or fire scenes you respond to, you need to check this out.

Click below for a video overview of Blue Card Command Training.

<http://www.bluecardcommand.com/> (Home page-all details)

<http://www.bluecardcommand.com/program-overview.html> (Video overview)

At least check it out and watch the sample videos. I'm pretty sure it will help if ANY of the above (or below) issues sound vaguely familiar with fires you have responded to.

SPOTSYLVANIA FIRE TASK FORCE PROPOSALS

Some of the major recommendations from the Spotsylvania task force report include:

- =All members need to follow duty orders and avoid freelancing.
- =All members need to make sure they have the proper gear with them, including radios, flashlights and search tools.
- =Thermal imaging cameras must be used in all fires.
- =All members should follow one set of standard operating procedures.
- =The volunteer fire companies need to establish standard qualifications for leadership roles.
- =The volunteer fire companies need to create an organized training program.
- =The volunteer fire companies need to develop enhanced training programs on how to use thermal imaging cameras, search-and-rescue techniques and ventilation techniques.

HERE is the entire article and report:

<http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2010/062010/06062010/552569>

HERE is audio and previous coverage of this fire from Dave Statter: <http://tinyurl.com/29l65h8>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-8-10 / 2-20 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Jackson Township (Ocean County, NJ) Volunteer First Aid Squad (EMS Station 22) ambulance (with emergency lights on) was transporting an 87-year old female trauma patient to a local hospital when it was struck head-on at around 2348 hours on Saturday by a 27 year-old motorcyclist driving a Harley Davidson. Fortunately, the EMS driver was wearing his seat belt, and driving a rig equipped with a front air bag that deployed, and managed to avoid injuries to his on-board patient and crew.

The cyclist crossed the double yellow center line on a sloping downhill curved section of a roadway in Jackson, veering into the path of the on-coming ambulance. The 22 year-old driver of the Squad's ambulance Shane O'Brien (who is also a Volunteer Firefighter with the

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Jackson Mills Volunteer Fire Company, Station 54) is credited with preventing further injuries by his calm decision-making keeping the ambulance under control and upright, despite the fact that the force of the impact sheared off the drivers side front wheel and suspension assembly. The driver of the ambulance and a Squad Cadet riding in the rear of the ambulance were wearing seat-belts and were uninjured. An EMT providing care to the patient in the back of the ambulance suffered a few bumps and bruises but was otherwise unhurt. Immediately after the impact, even though the ambulance's drivers side door jammed shut, the crew exited their vehicle and began providing care to the injured motorcyclist.

The original woman patient in the ambulance did not suffer any further injury from the crash, and was transferred to another ambulance to continue her transport to a local hospital. The front airbag did deploy on the 2007 model year ambulance. The operator of the motorcycle suffered severe injuries, and due to weather conditions preventing two med-evac helicopters from flying, was transported via ground to the trauma center at Jersey Shore University Medical Center by another Jackson First Aid Squad ambulance, with paramedics from the MON-OC Hospital Corporation on board. The motorcycle driver was pronounced dead after arrival at the Medical Center.

Take Care, BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-14-10 / 0747 Hours

AND:

REMEMBERING THE 9 CHARLESTON FIREFIGHTERS. IT WAS 3 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK.

Several memorial events have been planned to mark the 3 year anniversary of a fire that killed nine Charleston (SC) Firefighters in the Line of Duty. As we must remember, 3 years ago this week CFD Members **Billy Hutchinson, Mike Benke, Louis Mulkey, Brad Baity, Melvin Champaign, Michael French, Earl Drayton, Brandon Thompson and Mark Kelsey** all horrifically gave their lives.

Charleston Firefighters, family and friends will return to the site of the former Sofa Super Store at 1807 Savannah Highway on Friday to remember the 9 Firefighters who died in the Line of Duty three years ago. Like last year, family members of the Firefighters lost will have a private hour of reflection at the site from 6-7 p.m., followed by the reading of the 9 named and the ringing of the fire bell. The site will then be open to the public for 3 hours, with a tent, water, lights, and fans available as a quintet provides music.

REST IN PEACE.

TAKE TIME to study and use the reports and the related documents. There are still documented events occurring at fires in places other than Charleston, that could still lead to tragic loss. The best way we can honor the lost CFD Firefighters, their lives, their families and all those who have suffered from that fire, is to LEARN from what happened and insure that FD's have training, policy and leadership in place to minimize it.

Excellent Coverage **HERE:** <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/firefighters/>

Technical Reports HERE:

-OSHA: <http://media.charleston.net/pdf/OSHAreport.pdf>

-ROUTLEY REPORT PHASE 1*: <http://www.iaff.org/07News/PDF/CHSRpt.pdf>

-ROUTLEY REPORT PHASE 2*: http://media.charleston.net/2008/pdf/firereport_051508.pdf

-NIOSH: http://media.charleston.net/2009/pdf/NIOSHfinalfirereport_021209.pdf

-ATF: http://media.charleston.net/2008/pdf/ATF_firereport_070908.pdf

* INTERVIEW WITH INVESTIGATORS:

<http://server.firehouse.com/podcast/through-smoke/through-smoke-charleston-routley-phase-ii-report-part-2>

NEXT WEEK? **SAFETY WEEK IS NEXT WEEK:**

This year's Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week, also known as Safety Week, is next week, June 20-26. Sponsored by the IAFC and the IAFF and in partnership with other national fire service organizations, the theme for this year's event is Fit for Duty and will cover a variety of topics that are related to FITNESS and HEALTH.

CLICK HERE: <http://www.iafcsafety.org/> and go to the **FIT4Duty** Week Logo on the front page. Be sure to visit the Safety Week Web site for the sample daily-activity schedule, FAQs, a press release template and many other health and wellness resources.

Recommended areas of activities include:

- General Health and Wellness
- Food and Nutrition
- Fitness
- Stress Management
- Smoking and Smokeless-Tobacco Cessation
- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Infectious Diseases
- Suicide Prevention

During the week, departments are also encouraged to support comprehensive, non-punitive fitness assessments, medical screenings and educational programs that build and maintain medically and physically fit personnel and help in reducing health- and fitness-related deaths or injuries.

A "BUFFET" OF RELATED LINKS:

<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=382>

http://www.iaff.org/hs/CPAT/cpat_index.html

<http://www.healthy-firefighter.org/>

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/health/index.shtm>

<http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/resources/>

http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/research/pages/Initiative_6_Physical_Health/Wellness_Programs/index.html

http://www.nvfc.org/page/1149/Health_and_Safety.htm

<http://firefightersworkout.com/foodcourt.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 6-16-10 / 1619 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Today is the 38th Anniversary of the infamous Vendome fire in Boston that killed 9 Firefighters in the Line of Duty. At 1435 Hours on June 17, 1972, Box 1571 was received at Boston Fire Alarm. It would be the first of four alarms required to handle the fire at the former Hotel Vendome on Commonwealth Avenue. It took nearly 3 hours to stop. Apparatus at the scene included 16 fire engines, 5 ladders, 2 aerial towers and 1 heavy rescue. All apparatus had full crews. Once the fire was out, the BFD commenced a routine overhaul operation. Then, at 1728 Hours, without warning, the southeast section of the building collapsed. 9 Firefighters were killed on that day, 8 more injured; 8 women widowed, 25 kids lost their fathers.

Rest in Peace:

- Fire Fighter Thomas W. Beckwith
- Fire Fighter Joseph E. Boucher
- Lieutenant Thomas J. Carroll
- Fire Fighter Charles E. Dolan
- Lieutenant John E. Hanbury, Jr.
- Fire Fighter John E. Jameson
- Fire Fighter Richard B. Magee
- Fire Fighter Paul J. Murphy
- Fire Fighter Joseph P. Saniuk

FIRE SCENE "RESCUE" VIDEO:

HERE is a pretty amazing video from a FIRE in Poland, with people "literally" hanging out the windows from a working MFD fire. Thanks to Rhett Fleitz and Dave Statter for this one: <http://tinyurl.com/296nh8j>

CONDOLENCES:

FLORIDA FF STRUCK AND KILLED BY LIGHTNING WHILE TRAVELING TO FF MEMORIAL - EVEN IN DEATH, HE HAS SAVED 2 LIVES

Fifty-three-year-old William "Bill" Carr was taken off of life support on Tuesday night after suffering an injury which doctors say he did not have a chance of surviving. Carr, 53, a veteran firefighter with the Broward County Sheriff's Fire Rescue Department, Florida for more than 30 years, was riding across the country with three fellow firefighters. They were on their way to visit the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Colorado Springs. His brother says the group always travels very carefully. Witnesses say they saw the men near mile marker 138, when the lightning struck. The lightning hit Carr directly on the right side of his head, shattering his helmet and knocking him to the ground.

Firefighters at the Weston BSO Fire Station where FF Carr worked said he was a devoted man. He never married or had children, but he was entirely committed to the job. After devoting 30 years to firefighting, Carr was finally ready to retire in just six months.

But just as he saved lives while working as a firefighter, Carr also saved lives in the wake of his death. After finding out he was an organ donor, his family worked with the Donor Alliance and kept him on life support to coordinate the transplant. 2 people in Iowa have already received Bill Carr's kidneys. RIP.

YOU AND YOUR SCBA.

SCBA. A quick thought. How often do you go "on air" with your SCBA? How comfortable are you knowing every feature of your SCBA in the worst of conditions? Seriously, think about the WORST of conditions when knowing "every inch" of your SCBA could mean getting out, or not. How often do we check ourselves on SCBA, other than on a run? Daily? Weekly? Monthly? None-ly? We should be able to don our SCBA and use every feature of that SCBA under the worst of extreme conditions, without light, sight, hearing or any senses. We should do it without having to think about how to do it. It should be second nature. **Under nightmare conditions.** Just a thought following a discussion with a friend after some recent FF LODD's at structure fires.

HERE are some basic SCBA drills that may help:

<http://tinyurl.com/25s6b3t>

<http://tinyurl.com/2ehzdpr>

<http://tinyurl.com/3yhz3ax>

HERE are EXCELLENT "MANAGE YOUR (SCBA) AIR" RESOURCES FROM THE SEATTLE GUYS:

http://manageyourair.com/Manage_Your_Air/Welcome.html

NUMEROUS FREE COMPANY DRILLS HERE:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/weeklydrills.php>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-17-10 / 1648 Hours

AND:

Hey,

This morning, the final report on the double Line of Duty Deaths of Colerain Township (Ohio) Captain Robin Broxterman and FF Brian Schira has been released.

As you will read, the township report said the findings indicate a need for:

- The importance of heightened interest in firefighter safety among fire department personnel.
- Increased focus on firefighter training and education.
- The importance of size up, including a 360.
- The importance of charged hose lines upon entry into fire and smoke conditions.
- Development of and adherence to standard operating guidelines.
- Improvements in radio communications and protective equipment.
- Strong advocacy for the installation of automatic residential fire sprinklers.

Go HERE for the **FINAL report:** <http://tinyurl.com/36lnbos>

Go HERE for a **list of audio clips:** <http://tinyurl.com/2ufjnz9>

Go HERE for the **NIOSH Report:** <http://tinyurl.com/mnnkgl>

- REMEMBERING 2 MULTI-LODD's ON FATHERS DAY:

MEMPHIS: We take time to remember Memphis (TN) FD's Lt Trent Kirk and Private Charles Zachary who gave their lives in the Line of Duty on Fathers Day (June 15) 2003. The fire

occurred at the Family Dollar store in Memphis. These two Firefighters gave their lives in an arson covering up a robbery.

HERE is the NIOSH Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200318.html>

FDNY:

Additionally, we also take time to remember:

- FDNY Firefighter Harry S. Ford, Rescue Co.4
 - FDNY Firefighter Brain D. Fahey, Rescue Co. 4
 - FDNY Firefighter John Downing, Ladder Co. 163
- Who died in the Line of Duty on Fathers Day 2001.

HERE are details about that fire:

<http://stevespak.com/fathersday.html>

<http://www.fdnnewyork.com/99557512.asp>

HERE is the NIOSH Report:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200123.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-18-10 / 1030 Hours

To subscribe to the Secret List and get these emails for yourself, go to
www.firefighterclosecalls.com

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS **STORIES TO LEARN FROM:**

NOTE:

All of the website links below were valid at the time of publishing; there is always the chance that the website links may not be valid when you attempt to open them up.

Budget Related Items:

- ***To really get a pulse on how some of our taxpayers (the ones we work for) feel about the fire service, please take the time to not only read the articles below, but also the reader comments that follow many of the news stories. Some of those comments are very negative, and if we are not careful, we really run the risk of losing credibility and respect with the public (not to mention funding), which could have serious long-term effects on the stability and perception of our American Fire Service. While it is true everyone (including taxpayers) are allowed to have their opinion, we would be naïve to turn away, get emotional, not acknowledge, or even discount the comments made. Knowledge can be power, and if used properly, can attempt to turn negative attitudes into positive attitudes, which can and will pay dividends in the long run.***

Monday will be a day of reckoning for many Clark County (NV) employees as commissioners hammer out a final budget that is likely to call for hundreds of layoffs. No one could say how many workers eventually will receive pink slips because department heads and county management were still figuring out last week how to cut staffing to offset a \$57 million shortfall: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/county-employees-facing-prospect-of-hundreds-of-layoffs-93877614.html>

Members of the city's police and fire department could be asked to give back about five percent of their future salaries to help mitigate the city's budget, under a proposal suggested by Aurora (CO) City Council members at their executive session Monday: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/23587318/detail.html>

A massive reduction in staff and an end to Key Peninsula (WA) ambulance service are all but certainties if the upcoming EMS levy fails, according to both the Key Peninsula fire chief and a union leader. Facing increasing deficits and the potential that an August EMS levy renewal will not pass, Fire Chief Tom Lique has been given the authority by Fire District 16's Board of Commissioners to send notices of intent to lay off 12 department personnel on June 1, with two more notices potentially coming after the election:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2010/05/18/1191835/fire-district-16-could-pink-slip.html>

As other local governments gut services, fire department workers and wage public warfare with their unions, Henderson (NV) has quietly hammered out a trimmed-down budget for the coming year without a single layoff or nasty contract negotiation. So what gives? City officials and labor representatives credit planning ahead, working together and spending conservatively, even at the height of the growth boom, for helping Henderson to weather the financial storm so far. "It's kind of a group effort as we move through this," said Richard Derrick, the city's acting finance director. "It really comes down to leadership on both sides," said Dan Pentkowski, president of Henderson's firefighters union, which just reached a tentative agreement on a new two-year contract that eliminates a series of cost-of-living increases the city's 185 union firefighters agreed to defer less than a year ago:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/henderson-budgets-shrinks--but-city-avoids-layoffs-94224669.html>

This June, Fremont (CA) is scheduled to open a new fire station that it won't be able to staff. Fire Chief Bruce Martin told the City Council tonight that the fire department hasn't been staffing the current fire Station 11 in the industrial zone west of Interstate 880 to save money on overtime. A new Station 11 is under construction and is scheduled to be finished in June. The department will christen the building when it's completed, but in all likelihood it won't staff it until it can afford to. Martin said Station 11 gets the fewest service calls because there are no residents nearby and most of the buildings have sprinklers:

<http://www.ibabuzz.com/tricitybeat/2010/05/18/fremont-cant-afford-to-staff-new-fire-station/>

Clark County (NV) Commission Chairman Rory Reid will seek to immediately disband some infrequently used Fire Department heavy equipment teams, a move aimed at reducing [the department's ballooning overtime costs](#). Reid wants to mothball the department's mobile air unit, which hauls extra oxygen apparatus to fire scenes, and a

water tender, a truck that transports water to locations without hydrants, freeing the staff who operate the equipment for other needs. The equipment could still be used "as needed." Neither piece of equipment is first out on fire or medical calls, so Reid said changing their status would not increase response times. The idea, which sprung from cost-saving measures proposed by Fire Chief Steve Smith, will cut overtime \$965,000 by allowing six engineers who are tied to the equipment 24 hours a day to work elsewhere:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/may/20/staffing-shuffle-would-cut-overtime/>

Tuesday's defeat of the proposed quarter-percent increase in Gilbert's (AZ) sales tax disappointed Gilbert police and fire union officials. Both departments would have used the funds to avoid service cuts, especially in various fire and crime prevention programs and the potential layoff of dozens of police and fire personnel, they said:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/gilbert/articles/2010/05/20/20100520gilbert-sales-tax-election-safety-reaction.html>

The chairman of the D.C. Council Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary lambasted the city's fire chief Wednesday for what he has termed an "orgy" of overtime spending. During the hearing, Chairman Phil Mendelson, an at-large councilman, personally listed the firefighters with the most overtime. Southwest-based firefighter/paramedic Ricardo Bell made \$64,000 in salary plus \$106,000 in overtime last year. Even managers made overtime. The head of a supply warehouse, Deputy Chief Christopher Jordan, took home \$116,000 salary and \$38,000 in overtime. Fire and EMS spokesman Deputy Chief Kenneth Crosswhite made \$118,000 in salary and \$51,000 in overtime in 2008: <http://www.news8.net/news/stories/0510/737721.html>

In the latest money-saving merger between San Francisco (CA) Peninsula cities, San Mateo and Foster City will share a fire chief and the cities signaled they may also want to combine other services, officials announced Monday. San Mateo Fire Chief Dan Belville will take over as head of both fire departments starting July 1. Current Foster City Fire Chief Tom Reaves will retire in June. The city councils of both cities will still need to approve the agreement, which the city managers of each community have already agreed to. The city managers, in a joint news release, said Belville would not only lead both departments but also figure out whether there were any other consolidation opportunities. "San Mateo and Foster City are interested in exploring shared fire services as a way of delivering these important public safety services to our communities at a reduced cost," said the city managers, Susan Loftus in San Mateo and James Hardy in Foster City. They called San Mateo and Foster City "natural partners for shared fire services," citing their neighboring location and history of responding to calls in one another's cities. Belville will remain a San Mateo employee but Foster City would pay half his salary and benefits, which will save each city more than \$100,000 annually compared to hiring separate chiefs:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_15155685

Santa Barbara (CA) County Fire & Sheriff's Departments are facing deep cuts to their budget and service delivery levels:

http://www.lompocrecord.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_5f71b1f8-72c7-11df-bc2d-001cc4c03286.html

Voters in the Glide (OR) Rural Fire Protection District have turned down a \$2.95 million bond measure to build a new station. Voters rejected the bond measure by 53 percent, or 672 votes, to 47 percent, or 601 votes, based on unofficial final results in Tuesday's primary election:

<http://www.nrtoday.com/article/20100519/NEWS/100519659/1001&parentprofile%3D1055>

San Francisco (CA) police and firefighter union officials reached tentative deals Tuesday to forgo pay raises as Mayor Gavin Newsom seeks concessions from all city workers to help bridge a historic budget deficit, officials said. The firefighters' agreement calls for union members to give up at least 8 percent in planned wage increases over the next two years, which will save more than \$18.5 million in base wage and overtime costs over that period, said Martin Gran, head contract negotiator with the Department of Human Resources:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/25/BADP1DKGHJ.DTL>

Chico (CA) Fire Chief James Beery said it appears inevitable that a fire engine housed at Station 1 won't be rolling to blazes after July 1. The engine is perfectly serviceable, but the Chico Fire Department needs to cut about \$900,000 from its fiscal year operating budget, and not staffing the engine will cover most of that. "There's only so much money," Beery said. While the department is down seven firefighter positions right now, only four of those will be filled:

http://www.oroVILLEmr.com/news/ci_15208974

David Amero, a Lawrence (MA) firefighter for six years, is one of 32 firefighters who were hand delivered layoff notices from the mayor's office Wednesday morning. More than 115 Lawrence city employees were targeted in job cuts aimed at reducing a \$24 million budget deficit. Newscenter 5's Amalia Barreda reported that the department already suffered a cutback in services and 32 positions when it was forced to close two fire stations last summer. In a city of 80,000 people, fire officials said it is being reduced to numbers adequate for a community of less than half that population:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/dozens-mass-firefighters-get-pink-slips>

The North Las Vegas (NV) City Council approved a compromise Wednesday that will prevent firefighter layoffs during the next fiscal year. Earlier this year, North Las Vegas announced that it would likely have to lay off 16 firefighters unless changes were made to current contracts. The city had to cut \$1.9 from the fire department's budget for next fiscal year because of the economic downturn. In the end, the city and the firefighters union came to a compromise, including reducing the number of firefighters on each engine from five to four, which is standard throughout the rest of the valley. The change should save the city about \$1.1 million next year, said Joyce Lira, human resources director for the city. The firefighters also agreed to forgo any wage increases, and new firefighters and paramedics will start at 5 percent less than the existing entry-level pay. Stand-by pay will also be lowered from \$4 per hour to \$2 per hour, she said. In exchange, the city agreed not to sign with any private companies that could perform the duties of the fire department and agreed not to lay off any members:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jun/02/north-las-vegas-oks-deal-avoid-firefighter-layoffs/>

Voters rejected a \$993,000 levy override proposed by Middleton (OR) Rural Fire District 577-514 Tuesday. District Chief Brad Trosky said failure to restore the funding would likely mean layoffs and reduced service, although specifics have yet to be determined. The Middleton Rural Fire district may have to limit responses to very serious fires, he said: http://www.idahopress.com/news/article_fa7c67b0-694e-11df-92cf-001cc4c002e0.html

In a proposal sure to be met with political and community ire, the city of Sacramento (CA) recommended Thursday that three Fire Department rigs be shut down on a rotating basis in addition to the one that is already browned out. The plan is part of interim City Manager Gus Vina's proposal to erase a citywide \$43 million deficit for the 2010-11 fiscal year. It would mean that two fire apparatus on the north side of the city and two in southern neighborhoods would be idled at all times. Fire stations subject to a brownout would remain open, but one rig would be out of service for a 48-hour stretch: www.sacbee.com/2010/06/04/2797667/sacramento-budget-plan-would-take.html

South King Fire & Rescue's (WA) mid-year forecast shows property tax revenues are projected to decline 5 percent (\$1.2 million) for 2011. This decline is in addition to the nearly 15 percent (\$3.7 million) reduction we experienced for 2010. The combined revenue losses for the 2-year period total \$4.8 million. The fire district receives more than 95 percent of its funding from property taxes to provide fire suppression and emergency medical services to residents and business owners in the communities of Federal Way, Des Moines, and unincorporated King County. As property values have dipped sharply in King County during the economic downturn, so have revenues received by the fire district. "Our revenue continues to fall, and the cost to provide emergency services is growing," said Chief Financial Officer David Lawson. Historically, increases are due to personnel costs and items such as fuel, equipment and supplies. To reduce expenses, cost cutting measures have been put in place. More than \$400,000 has been saved with a hiring freeze, reduced staffing through attrition, cuts in training, and a delay in the replacement of emergency equipment. Using cash reserve funds to make ends meet helps, but Lawson cautions that is a temporary solution: <http://www.federalwaynews.net/2010/06/02/news/economic-woes-challenge-south-king-county-emergency-services-providers>

Clark County (NV) is taking yet another swipe at [firefighter overtime costs](#), with plans to reassign some administrators to regular duty and shut down four units, allowing their duties to be covered by city teams. The moves, detailed in a memo Thursday by County Manager Virginia Valentine and scheduled to be implemented this month, will free 42 county fire employees — including six captains, 12 engineers, 18 firefighters and others — to fill in for other captains, engineers and firefighters on sick leave, vacation or absent for other reasons. Using on-duty personnel to cover absences means the county pays them straight time, not overtime. Administrative positions that would be vacated include public information officer, logistic officer, EMS supervisor and fire systems coordinator. The savings for the fiscal year that begins July 1 is estimated at \$4.5 million. The four units that will be shut down are heavy rescue, hazardous materials and two associated rescues. Shutting the units will reduce "the imbalance of mutual aid calls that our fire department responds to within the city's jurisdictions," Valentine said:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jun/05/new-plan-curtail-firefighter-overtime/>

A plan to trim Clark County (NV) firefighters' overtime by forming a relief staff that would be paid straight time to fill in for absent co-workers is not enough to avoid contract concessions, two county commissioners said Monday. Commissioners Steve Sisolak and Rory Reid praised the Fire Department's plan to eliminate about 40 jobs and divert those employees to a relief team, saving about \$4.5 million in overtime. The relief team is similar to the "rovers" who substitute for city of Las Vegas firefighters who miss work because of illness, vacation or other reasons. They receive regular pay instead of time and a half. Sisolak, a staunch critic of firefighters' compensation, and Reid, who is running for governor, said the move doesn't address the other labor costs ingrained in the union contract. "I don't think we're close to done," Reid said. "The personnel costs of the Fire Department are not sustainable. We need to find a way to reduce the personnel costs, with or without the union's help." Sisolak said he wants firefighters to offer substantial concessions in pay raises, salaries and benefits to prevent employees in other departments from getting laid off in the economic slump. "We have to come up with a way to balance the budget that treats everybody fairly," Sisolak said: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/commissioners-say-more-firefighter-cost-reductions-needed-95829759.html>

Stockton (CA) Firefighters face cuts – salaries or jobs? Firefighters across the region have been forced to consider serious cuts to personnel in light of the state's budget crisis, and Stockton firefighters have joined many other departments in offering to take a pay cut in exchange for saving positions. The Stockton Fire Department is facing \$5.7 million in cuts in the next fiscal year, and the local 456 Firefighters Union has opted to seek cuts to pay and benefits in order to save 24 jobs: <http://cbs13.com/local/stockton.firefighters.cuts.2.1738409.html>

The Reno (NV) City Council wants to hear from its fire chief and the public on June 23 about whether to have an advisory ballot question about reducing the number of firefighters on an engine to save money and keep open more fire stations: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20100610/NEWS/6100337/1005/news02/Reno-council-wants-voters-to-decide-fire-truck-staffing>

Budget proposals presented to elected leaders Wednesday suggest the city might not pursue Stockton (CA) firefighter layoffs after all to help close its \$23 million budget deficit, regardless of how labor negotiations materialize. After a brief City Council budget hearing, interim City Manager Kevin O'Rourke said one alternative being considered is to close a fire station and establish a pool of relief workers - made up of firefighters who otherwise would have been laid off - to routinely cover shifts for sick or absent personnel. The savings from such a move likely would come from curtailed overtime. It's the latest development in the city's ever-evolving labor dispute with its public safety unions: http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100610/A_NEWS/6100330

A proposal by Palo Alto's (CA) firefighters union to freeze the staffing levels at the Fire Department is bound for the November ballot after the union received more than enough signatures to qualify it for the election: http://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/show_story.php?id=17243

East Contra Costa County (CA) fire officials are poised to close two stations while they ponder whether a tax measure could stabilize the cash-strapped agency. Despite residents' pleas to reconsider, East Contra Costa Fire District directors decided Monday that next year's budget should be based on six fire stations instead of the eight that now exist and reflect 48 firefighting positions rather than 54:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_15251265

Seattle (WA) Mayor Mike McGinn has proposed an idea that's creating a firestorm of controversy. To save money, McGinn is considering cutting the number of firefighters who would respond to your house if it's on fire. As it stands now, the fire engine that would show up at your house would be carrying four firefighters. But McGinn has suggested reducing that to three firefighters to save money:

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/23843734/detail.html>

A hot-button topic for the Sparks (NV) City Council will smolder to a peaceful end Monday as the city leaders vote on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the city fire department. The MOU will dictate local firefighters' terms of employment through June 30, 2011. The contract means a permanent 2.3 percent base pay reduction, no cost of living raises this year or any year and no more uniform allowances among other terms. "I think our MOU is very clear and to the point and basically we have bought the city, the citizens, a year of adequate, no, better safety," said Sparks firefighters union president Kevin Cavanagh:

http://dailysparktribune.com/view/full_story/7906737/article-Firefighter-agreement-means-no-jobs-lost?instance=news_special%20coverage_right_column

Emboldened by the Clark County (NV) Commission's support for cutting Fire Department costs, county staff is considering a plan that would essentially privatize the firefighting force at McCarran International Airport. Other big-city airports across the nation, including Minneapolis-St. Paul, Reno-Tahoe, Sea-Tac (Seattle-Tacoma) and Indianapolis, maintain independent fire departments, or fire authorities, with salary and benefits that are separate from the fire departments in surrounding jurisdictions:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jun/11/privatized-airport-fire-unit-possibility/>

Bakersfield's (CA) newest fire station opened less than six months ago -- but it's already on the chopping block. The possible closure of Fire Station 14 in the far southwest is one of the few big wrinkles in the city's proposed budget for the new fiscal year, which starts July 1. The fire department needs to trim \$890,000 from its \$30 million-plus budget, said Bakersfield Fire Chief Ron Frazee. Such a large sum can only be met with staffing changes, he said:

<http://www.bakersfield.com/news/local/x637735161/New-fire-station-on-the-chopping-block>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

Two Orange County (FL) firefighters were fired for allegedly making dirty phone calls to their fire chief:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/leadership-and-command/fla-ffs-fired-making-dirty-calls>

An after-shift drink at a fire house could lead to a captain on the South Bend (IN) Fire Department being suspended and demoted. On Wednesday, Fire Chief Howard Buchanon asked the Board of Public Safety to suspend Capt. Paul Chlebowski and accused him of having an alcoholic drink in a fire house after his shift ended. According to a letter by Buchanon to the board, Chlebowski was observed at Fire Station 3 holding an alcoholic beverage at 7:15 a.m. on April 9, 15 minutes after his shift had ended. Chlebowski was in uniform, Buchanon wrote, and also told Assistant Fire Chief Jim Lopez that others at the station were doing the same thing and getting away with it. "Captain Chlebowski's knowledge of this going on and not trying to correct or report the problem is not showing good leadership qualities," Buchanon wrote. Buchanon said Chlebowski violated two rules in the department's manual, including a prohibition against alcohol in any building or vehicle. He said Chlebowski's conduct was unbecoming of a firefighter:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/leadership-and-command/ind-capt-disciplined-drinking>

Opposition began mounting on the City Council yesterday against an arbitration award for Boston firefighters, with Council President Michael P. Ross threatening to vote against the contract unless the union makes "meaningful concessions." "If they don't, I believe we have no choice — on behalf of the residents of this city — but to reject the award," Ross said in a heated speech at City Hall, describing what he called palpable "public outrage" over the settlement. "Seventy-four million dollars. A 19 percent increase. Paying fire-fighters to come to work sober."

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/05/20/city_council_head_condemns_fire_dept_deal/

A scam artist walked right into the Idaho Pizza Company in South Boise (ID) and handed the owner a fake flier, claiming to be with the Boise fire department. Restaurant owner Jason Vaughn almost fell for the trick and is warning others:

<http://www.kboi2.com/news/94335509.html>

After a jury decided that a Volusia County (FL) ambulance service should pay \$10 million for the premature birth of boy in one of its vehicles, paramedics across the nation wondered: Could they too be held liable for their most basic duty of transporting a patient?

http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2010-05-19/news/os-ambulance-verdict-20100519_1_evac-paramedics-verdict

A heated dispute between the City of Palo Alto and its firefighters' union -- even before the two sides sit down to negotiate a contract -- went up several degrees Friday during a press conference outside City Hall. Assistant City Manager Pam Antil accused Tony Spitaleri, president and chief negotiator of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1319, of misrepresenting the city's position in the upcoming contract negotiations. Spitaleri in late April publicly blasted the city's decision to fire a consultant who had completed a preliminary study on fire department operations and staffing. Some City Council members have accused the 108-member union at public meetings of not doing its share of cost reductions to help close the city's \$7.3 million budget gap: http://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/show_story.php?id=16938

A Camas (WA) Fire District captain has been accused of pilfering a powerful painkiller out of vials stored in ambulance medical kits. He then injected himself and replaced the clear drug with tap water, according to federal court documents. Bradley C. Allen, a 22-year veteran, was to be arraigned Friday in federal district court in Tacoma for tampering with a controlled substance, the painkiller fentanyl:

<http://www.krem.com/news/northwest-news/FDA-Camas-paramedic-stole-pain-meds-added-tap-water-94530804.html>

The U.S. Supreme Court says a group of African-Americans can sue the City of Chicago (IL) over a Fire Department hiring test they challenged as discriminatory. The high court on Monday unanimously overturned a lower court decision that said the black applicants had waited too long to sue. [The case stems from July 1995](#), when 26,000 applicants took tests for entry-level Chicago firefighter positions. In January 1996, applicants were informed of their test results. Twelve percent of all the white applicants made it into the well-qualified group, compared to only 2 percent of all African-American applicants. Seventy-six percent of the highest group was white, as compared to only 12 percent black applicants:

<http://cbs2chicago.com/politics/african.american.firefighter.2.1711693.html>

A federal judge in Brooklyn has appointed former longtime New York District Attorney Robert Morgenthau as a special master to help force the city to improve the hiring of black firefighters. Portraying the city's response to his earlier orders as all but hopeless, Judge Nicholas Garaufis announced the appointment of Morgenthau on Wednesday. Garaufis ruled in January that the city must revamp its hiring practices to end discrimination against black applicants for firefighter jobs. The New York Fire Department has about 350 black firefighters out of 11,500 total:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/judge-pushes-fdny-hire-blacks>

Depending on who the speaker is, the Palo Alto (CA) Fire Department is either a bare-bones outfit fighting to retain its staff after years of draconian cuts or a bloated, overstaffed silo whose rising costs are forcing other city departments to lay off workers and cut programs. Both views have been voiced eloquently in recent months and are sure to re-emerge, perhaps more diplomatically, during Palo Alto's contract talks with its firefighters' union, Palo Alto Professional Firefighters, Local 1319. The negotiations formally kicked off Wednesday — at a time of heightened tensions between the council and firefighters, whose current contract expires June 30. On May 18, members of the council's Finance Committee repeatedly accused the Fire Department of not "stepping up to the plate" by helping trim the department's proposed budget for 2011. The budget would raise net expenditures by \$1.8 million as other departments brace for sharp cuts and layoffs:

http://www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly/story.php?story_id=13016

Frustrated by what he has characterized as continued obstructionism by the Bloomberg administration, a federal judge on Wednesday appointed Robert M. Morgenthau as a special master to oversee the city of New York's adoption of practices aimed at increasing the number of black and Hispanic firefighters in the FDNY: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/27/nyregion/27master.html?hp>

The Mobile (AL) firefighters who came down with a sudden case of "Blue Flu" this past weekend could find themselves in trouble with the city. Mayor Same Jones says if rules or policies were violated, there will be consequences. When 32 firefighters called in sick Saturday, Mobile Mayor Sam Jones got a call from the fire chief about a suspected outbreak of "Blue Flu". It's a term that means many of those taking off might not be sick, but protesting. "We don't plan for any employee in the city of Mobile, to try to hold the citizens or the city hostage, and we won't tolerate that. We don't know that to be the case, but if that is the case, then the appropriate actions will be taken," Mayor Jones said:

<http://www.fox10tv.com/dpp/news/mobile-fire-rescue-hit-with-blue-flu-bb>

At least 200 emergency medical technicians and paramedics in Massachusetts and New Hampshire have been practicing without legitimate certification, paying for fake credentials, rather than receiving medical training, state public health officials said. An ongoing investigation has so far determined that training companies illegally authorized state credentials for first responders in at least a dozen communities, including Boston, the officials said in an interview with the Globe. The probe is expected to continue to grow and include more communities:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2010/05/27/many_emts_papers_faked/

Three Los Angeles (CA) County firefighters were caught playing golf when they said they were working - but two of them were not disciplined because department rules allowed them to claim a full day if they only worked an hour, according to a county report issued Wednesday. The incident was among several detailed in the county Office of Investigations latest semi-annual report on fraud committed by county employees. Other incidents included employees using county computers to view sexually explicit material, contractors being paid for services they didn't perform, and a new employee mistakenly being paid a higher salary than intended:

http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci_15169131

A new database shows \$12.2 billion in San Francisco (CA) Bay Area public employee salaries: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_15155685

The roiling debate over a controversial arbitration award for Boston (MA) firefighters came to a head yesterday at City Hall, where an army of firefighters held a defiant, spirited rally before standing watch over marathon City Council hearings that inflamed passions on all sides. At issue is a four-year contract dating to 2006 that would give firefighters five raises, including a 2 1/2 percent boost specifically for undergoing drug and alcohol testing. The city and the union sparred over the total cost of the award and the size of the pay increase and argued about how much money was available in the city's coffers. "Today, I can't support this," said Councilor Sal LaMattina from East Boston. "A lot of people are calling me up, and they don't want to pay for drug and alcohol testing. We don't pay the public works guys, we don't pay the transportation guys for drug testing, and we shouldn't."

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/06/03/firefighters_make_show_of_force_at_city_hall/

An investigator for the state of Wisconsin has found probable cause that the Eau Claire Fire Department might have discriminated against a former female employee based on her gender:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/politics-and-law/wis-fire-department-facing-bias-claim>

As the state of Department of Public Health and the attorney general's office continue investigations into widespread EMT training fraud, experts warn lawsuits could soon follow. About 200 emergency medical technicians in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, including state-certified instructors who worked in Billerica and Lowell, allegedly bought and submitted false recertification records to their employers, according to DPH. The majority of cases under investigation stemmed from anonymous tips brought to the attention of DPH officials. "These are just the cases we know about," said Jennifer Manley, a DPH spokeswoman:

http://www.lowellsun.com/ci_15217885?IADID=Search-www.lowellsun.com-www.lowellsun.com

A top-ranking Pasco (FL) Fire Rescue official has resigned under pressure less than two months after anonymous allegations surfaced that he inflated his credentials to a previous employer. County officials say, however, they asked Training Chief Stephen G. Smith, a six-year veteran, to resign because of performance-related issues - not because of documents they received showing Smith left the Pinellas Park Fire Department in 2002 amid an inquiry into whether he exaggerated his educational background and even falsified school diplomas. "It's coincidental is the best way to put it," said Chief Anthony Lopinto. "It just wasn't working out. That's really the truth," said personnel director Barbara DeSimone. "It wasn't the documents, it was job performance."

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/leadership-and-command/fla-fire-official-asked-leave>

In a strongly worded letter sent to city councilors yesterday, Boston (MA) Mayor Thomas M. Menino said the firefighter union's last-minute wage concession was not enough, and the proposed contract could endanger the city's long-term fiscal health. He called on the parties to find an alternative. The mayor's letter raises the political temperature as the City Council prepares for an up-or-down vote scheduled for Wednesday and increases pressure on the council to win more concessions for the city. Last week, in a last-ditch effort to persuade reluctant city councilors to approve the contract, firefighters proposed delaying for a year a 2.5 percent salary increase that an independent arbitrator awarded as a direct quid pro quo for drug and alcohol testing. According to the city, the concession would save Boston taxpayers \$4.3 million in the coming fiscal year. But in the letter he sent to the council yesterday, Menino said that concession was "a small amount to trade for the more than \$100 million that union members would secure in payment for drug and alcohol testing over the next 20 years." Permanently raising base salaries would have a compounding cost effect over time, he said:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/06/07/menino_says_unions_offer_is_inadequate/

Los Angeles (CA) Firefighter/Paramedic Charles A. MacDougall survived a stabbing attack at a downtown hotel that prevented him from accepting his Paramedic of the Year award, but police are raising questions about exactly what happened:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-downtown-firefighter-20100610%2C0%2C4189802.story>

The City of Fresno (CA) increases the payout to a former Fresno City firefighter in training. Michelle Maher sued the fire department for gender discrimination and she won her claim in federal court. "There was instructor that believed women do not belong in the Academy or do not belong in Fresno City Fire — period," Maher told KMPH News in 2008. Maher claimed she was forced out of the Fresno Fire Department's training academy in 2005 because she was a single mom. In 2009, a federal court jury agreed that the avid athlete and cage fighter was a victim of gender discrimination and awarded Maher nearly \$2.5million. But, the price tag on the bill continues to mount. "The city of Fresno and Michelle Maher have agreed to a settlement, the city will pay Mrs. Maher \$3,350,000," Dan Siegel said. "The city will also dismiss its appeal." <http://www.kmph-kfre.com/Global/story.asp?S=12632813>

Geauga County (OH) Sheriffs Deputies have made an arrest after a hidden camera was found inside a YMCA bathroom stall. Officials arrested Fire Captain Daniel Serge in connection to a hidden camera found inside a handicapped bathroom stall of the Munson Township YMCA: <http://www.wtol.com/Global/story.asp?S=12649784>

Rory Reid slammed the Clark County (NV) firefighters union Monday for its full-page newspaper advertisement that accused him of pushing a plan that will result in "unjustifiable delays in life saving expertise." "The firefighters want the public to think this is about safety," Reid said. "In fact, the only thing at risk is the firefighters' paycheck and that's what this is all about."

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jun/15/rory-reid-says-reghters-union-resorting-scare-tact/>

The Honolulu (HI) Fire Department confirms it is investigating allegations that a firefighter physically assaulted a man in Waimanalo Sunday night:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/hawaii-ff-allegedly-assaulted-man>

The town of Farmington (NH) fire chief had no comment Tuesday when asked if a former fire captain is no longer with the department due to pending criminal charges that include allegations he assaulted a woman in the fire station parking lot:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/former-nh-fire-capt-faces-charges>

The taxpayers who pay their salaries probably can't do it, but Boston (MA) firefighters are apparently allowed to take their boats to work and wash them using department facilities. A Brighton resident who was out walking his dog this week said he saw a Boston firefighter washing his boat inside a city firehouse. He took a picture that he sent to Team 5 Investigates. "He was on the top of the boat, a blue motorboat. I know the fire department color is red," said the man, who wished to remain anonymous. "Taking your boat to work and then washing it? It's just wrong. You're there to work," he said: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/23927359/detail.html>

Positive Public Relations Items:

They call it “Fire School 101.” On Friday, fire departments throughout Salt Lake valley gave their bosses a chance to gear up and get busy. The aim was to show policy makers how important it is to give firefighters the tools they need to do their jobs. In full gear and under real life conditions, a pack of amateurs find out what it’s like to be a firefighter. Rio Castleton from the firefighters union says, “We run them through a day of learning what its like to be a firefighter.” The amateurs are the budget bosses, the people who hold the purse strings. Mayors and council members, who were elected to be the guardians of taxpayer’s money. Castleton says, “The idea is for them to learn what it is to do our job and why we ask for the things we ask for so that when they’re making those decisions for their city, they make those decisions better informed:

<http://www.abc4.com/content/news/slc/story/Local-politicians-learn-how-to-put-out-the-fire/ZAg2e5NvsEC1wnep2PuqZA.csp>

For seven weeks, the drill tower at Los Angeles (CA) Fire Station 40 in Terminal Island comes alive as sirens wail and red emergency lights flash. The drill ground is the site of the Pacific Coast Fire Academy, where several dozen Los Angeles high school students recently finished a training program to prepare them for careers in the fire service. The program is sponsored by the Los Angeles Fire Department and the Los Angeles Unified School District. About a third of the slots are reserved for at-risk youths, said Capt. Alicia Mathis, who helps direct the program:

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/05/pacific-coast-fire-academy-.html>

Lodi (CA) Fire Battalion Chief Jeff Larson will be participating in the Ride 2 Recovery California Challenge, a bike ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles that will raise money for mental and physical rehabilitation for wounded veterans:

http://www.lodinews.com/articles/2010/06/01/news/11-firefighter_100601.txt

The city of North Las Vegas (NV) has reached a tentative agreement on contract concessions with its firefighters union that will save the jobs of 16 firefighters and end a months-long stalemate, officials said Thursday. Under the agreement, which must be ratified by the City Council, the 200 firefighters represented by IAFF Local 1607 will give up their annual cost-of-living and merit or "step" raises for fiscal year 2010-2011, which begins July 1. In exchange, the city agrees not to lay off any union firefighters during the fiscal year and will increase firefighters' annual leave by 2.9 hours each pay period during the year: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/north-las-vegas-firefighters-agree-to-forgo-raises-to-avoid-layoffs-95038434.html>

Manteca (CA) has trimmed \$450,000 in firefighter overtime without having to “brown-out” an engine company due to a manpower shortage. And the credit goes to the rank-and-file of the Manteca Firefighters Association that stepped up by vowing to make sure that no two firemen were on vacation at the same time. As a result, Manteca has never dropped below minimum shift staffing of 12 firefighters with three assigned to each of the four engine companies: <http://www.mantecabulletin.com/news/article/14895/>

Giving back to the community both on duty and off duty has always been a priority for members of the Glendale (AZ) Fire Department. But last fall, that spirit of giving and generosity was taken to another level when Capt. Eddie Smith and Firefighter Randy Rodriguez formed Glendale's Hope, the new name for the Glendale Firefighter Charities: <http://www.glendalestar.com/articles/2010/06/03/news/news03.txt>

A Gilbert (AZ) fire captain, James Nelson, is the recipient of this year's Lion's Club Award for his service and dedication to the department:
http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/local/article_ca7c0ca0-703d-11df-8d22-001cc4c03286.html

An emotional Exalted Ruler Erasmo Rascon addressed the Nogales (AZ) Mayor and City Council on Wednesday, thanking the police and fire departments for their response to the Elks Lodge fire a day earlier. Holding up the organization's original charter, and speaking on behalf of the Elks membership, Rascon expressed special gratitude for the emergency responders' retrieval of important and historical documents and photographs – as well as the lodge's U.S. flag – during Tuesday's blaze:

<http://www.nogalesinternational.com/articles/2010/06/05/news/doc4c091c1b5268f103775508.txt>

A group of Lake Havasu City (NV) firefighters and a few guest riders hit the road Monday to travel 200 miles to deliver \$1,200 to a youth burn camp in Prescott:
<http://www.havasunews.com/articles/2010/06/15/news/doc4c170f8317d97152372933.txt>

Training & Safety Related Items:

A Los Angeles (CA) City firefighter was stabbed today while responding to a medical call in downtown Los Angeles, prompting an intensive police search for the assailant:
<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/la-firefighter-treating-patient-stabbed>

A must read for all current and future firefighters: One of America's first firefighters, Benjamin Franklin, once uttered, "Those who fail to learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them." Unfortunately, the firefighters named above are etched forever in the collective history of our profession. Do you remember their stories? I hope this article honors the memory of these men and women by repeating their stories, so that those who serve today are not required to pay again to learn the lessons these firefighters have already paid for with their blood:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/display/0592497926/articles/fire-engineering/firefighting/2010/05/peoples-never-forget.html?cmpid=EnlFireEngineeringMay262010>

Four firefighters were hurt after a suspected drunk driver crashed her car into their truck near Alpine (CA): <http://www.cbs8.com/Global/story.asp?S=12641581>

General Fire Service Related Items:

Carlsbad (CA) city officials have reached an impasse in contract negotiations with the labor organization representing firefighters and have called for a City Council hearing Tuesday to resolve the matter. City officials are pushing for contract changes in the department's pension plan and no pay increases for workers represented by the association. The pension changes would include requiring association members to pay 9 percent of their wages toward their retirement benefits, up from the 1 percent they now pay. The city also wants to create a two-tier pension plan that would provide reduced retirement benefits to newly hired workers represented by the association. Association members now can retire at age 50 and collect a pension equal to 3 percent of their wages for every year they work. Under the proposed plan, newly hired workers could retire at age 50 and collect a pension equal to 2 percent of their wages for every year they worked. The change wouldn't apply to association members already working in the department, Ray said:

http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/oceanside/article_911899e1-0def-5146-9fe1-8659b669190b.html

A judge has ordered two Minneapolis (MN) pension funds to recover about \$76 million in overpayments to retired police and firefighters or their spouses. Under the order, the 860 retired police officers or their survivors must repay the city an average of \$60,000 each, and 563 beneficiaries of the firefighter fund must repay an average of about \$43,000 each: <http://www.startribune.com/local/94216954.html>

While some Belmont (CA) leaders Tuesday began offering ideas for a fire department without San Carlos, others feared service would worsen in the meantime. Belmont-San Carlos Fire Chief Doug Fry told Belmont council members the department expects to lose so many employees during the next 17 months it may have to hire temporary firefighters from nearby cities just to staff stations. He said firefighters have already started looking for work elsewhere because of the uncertainty surrounding the department's future. Fry said if the department has difficulty staffing its four stations, it could reimburse larger cities such as Redwood City and San Mateo for loaning their firefighters: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_15168992?nclick_check=1

The Springfield (OR) City Council voted unanimously Monday night to take the first step toward merging Springfield Fire and Life Safety with Eugene Fire and EMS. That first step consists of a one-year agreement to share certain key administrative positions, such as fire chief and fire marshal. It could mean a savings of more than \$280,000 per city: <http://www.kmtr.com/news/local/story/Fire-department-merger-a-step-closer/pcZ51QIOI02jH92FpeGMbQ.csp>

If Stockton (CA) Fire Department paramedics want to use advanced lifesaving techniques in the future, they will need to have an agreement with county medical officials first: www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100608/A_NEWS/6080318

The Monterey (CA) City Council decided Wednesday to seek an agreement to create a Peninsula fire department. A joint-powers agreement among the cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel and Seaside for fire services is the goal. By combining departments, the cities hope to save money. Monterey estimates it could save \$340,000 a year after 2011 if all four cities join:

http://www.montereyherald.com/news/ci_15180905?nclick_check=1

Steps toward safer, more consistently trained firefighters in western Nevada County (CA) were taken Thursday night in Nevada City. An agreement between the Grass Valley, Nevada City and Nevada County Consolidated fire agencies to create a single management unit earned the OK of the Consolidated board, the last governing body to give the plan the go-ahead. Each fire department will retain its own employee pay scale and its own insignia on its firefighters and equipment:

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20100604/NEWS/100609874/1066&ParentProfile%3D1053>

"Consolidation" remains a dirty word among most of Stanislaus (CA) County's 19 fiercely independent fire departments. But the idea of merging at least some functions to save taxpayer money continues to simmer under the heading "regionalization." Several city and rural departments have explored combining for many years. Pride, tradition and different pay scales have kept it from happening, except for a partnership that finally joined the city of Oakdale with the Oakdale Rural Fire District in March:

<http://www.modbee.com/2010/06/06/1196748/stanislaus-county-fire-agencies.html>

It's a plan that's been more than six years in the making: one fire department to serve the California residents of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach and Oceano. The goal to form the Five Cities Fire Authority could be realized this week, if leaders of the two cities and Oceano's services district approve an agreement, a budget and a two-year deal with the firefighters' union:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2010/06/06/1167915/san-luis-obispo-five-cities-fire.html>

Last year, Lynnwood and Mukilteo (WA) began sharing their emergency medical services. The two cities are so happy with the results, they're talking about more sharing between the fire departments. "We're real pleased with the association we have now and sharing of costs," Lynnwood Fire Chief Gary Olson said. "I think it is good for both communities." The cities share the cost of a medical services officer, who oversees the work of paramedics. Before the agreement, neither city alone could afford one, Olson said. By years' end, the cities might also share a battalion chief, another position neither city has, Olson said:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20100613/NEWS01/706139867>

The Paradise Valley (ID) Fire Department has gone from 16 to nine firefighters after a new board was elected and a popular fire chief was fired. The substantial reduction in force has the acting fire chief and others worried that the PVFB doesn't have enough firefighters to deal with a large structure fire:

<http://www.bonnerrferryherald.com/articles/2010/06/17/local/doc4c1a6a2c483cf498698099.txt>

City Council members Thursday encouraged the area's three fire departments to continue to explore a merger idea that could spark cross-agency efficiencies and save money. Officials from the Wenatchee (WA) Fire Department, Chelan County Fire District 1, Douglas County Fire District 2 and the firefighters' union suggested last month that a merger could reduce duplication of services and cut costs. They've agreed to work together — with their municipalities' approvals — to do more research to see if creating a "regional fire authority" would also benefit taxpayers:

<http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2010/jun/11/city-agrees-to-explore-merged-fire-departments/>

A group of African American firefighters and the NAACP have settled their federal lawsuit against the City of Philadelphia (PA) over allegations of racist Internet postings made by white firefighters while on duty. U.S. District Judge Cynthia M. Rufe on Tuesday dismissed claims against the city at the request of Club Valiants Inc., the organization of black firefighters that has battled the Fire Department on issues of race and discrimination for 40 years. In November, Club Valiants and Philadelphia NAACP president J. Whyatt Mondesire sued the city and Local 22 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, which represents its members. The Valiants alleged that city computers were used to post "racially harassing and discriminatory materials and comments" on the union's own website and another site used mostly by police officers, creating a hostile work environment. As part of the settlement, the city has agreed to pay \$15,000 in legal fees and "provide additional diversity training" with input from the Valiants and the NAACP. The city will also "re-post" the city's policy against using city computers for "discriminatory purposes," said Brian R. Mildenberg, attorney for the Valiants and the NAACP:

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/politics/city/20100617_Black_firefighters_settle_lawsuit_against_Philadelphia.html

Oroville (CA) City Council's vote to change shifts for firefighters was rendered invalid by the City Attorney, but some councilors insist the proposal shouldn't have been brought to the table during negotiations. Mayor Steve Jernigan and councilors Art Hatley and Al Simpson voted Tuesday to change fire department shifts to two days on and four days off. The vote fell 3-2, with councilors Sue Corkin and David Pittman voting no with Vice Mayor Jamie Johansson and Councilwoman Thil Chan-Wilcox absent. In an e-mail Wednesday, Pittman stated that City Attorney Dwight Moore discovered later in the meeting that the resolution needed a majority of four votes to pass. The mayor then tabled the item to the next meeting, but Corkin questioned the appropriateness of even discussing the proposal before the city and the Oroville Firefighters Association finish contract negotiations:

http://www.chicoer.com/news/oroville/ci_15315726

Potential incorporation of Laughlin (NV) could cost Clark County firefighters big money: www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jun/13/incorporation-and-laughlin-firefighters/

A group of Santa Rosa (CA) residents opposed to plans to build a fire station in their neighborhood are taking their case to the Santa Rosa City Council tonight. The neighbors want the council to reject the Planning Commission's approval in April of a city proposal to build a station at the intersection of Fountaingrove Parkway and

Newgate Court. The two-bay, \$3 million firehouse would replace the station on Parker Hill Road, which fire officials say is not close enough to adequately protect the Fountaingrove area. William St. Pierre, who lives across Newgate Court from the proposed station, filed the appeal, citing many alleged shortcomings with the project. He contends the station would generate excessive noise, traffic and aesthetic problems and would pose dangers to children playing in the area:

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20100614/ARTICLES/100619724/1350?Title=Santa-Rosans-ask-council-to-block-new-fire-station>

A decision by Woodland's (CA) senior city staff to impose across the board pay cuts and furloughs has come back to haunt them, with the "share the pain" system forcing more than \$500,000 in firefighter overtime since taking effect last August. In July 2009, while struggling to bridge a \$7 million budget deficit, the City Council approved a 5 percent pay reduction and mandatory furloughs for all city employees, including public safety professionals such as police and firefighters. For the Woodland Fire Department, the most recent round of pay cuts and furloughs was being stacked on top of the staffing reductions called for in previous years, which since 2006 have forced the loss of 12 firefighter positions, dropping the department's staff to 1990 levels: http://www.dailydemocrat.com/ci_15315971?source=most_viewed

Please make every day a learning opportunity and train like your life depends on it – because it does!

Also, thanks to everyone for their continued support over the years. You may not agree with all of the information contained within these newsletters, but remember why the information is being included: to better prepare you for a career in the fire service, to prepare you for promoting in the fire service, and to just keep you up-to-date with what is going on in your fire service. Even more important than that, this information will hopefully keep you safe and may just save your life or the life of a brother or sister firefighter! Take care and don't just stay safe – make it safe!

Steve Prziborowski, Editor / Publisher – Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site: www.chabotfire.com
Chabot College web site: www.chabotcollege.edu

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- If you are subscribed to my email mailing list and you are not receiving anything (a problem some earthlink, aol, hotmail and yahoo users have at times), make sure you add my name – Steve Prziborowski and the email address I use to send this newsletter and other fire and EMS related news items out – sprziborowski@aol.com to your address book, safe list, white list, etc. Since I mass mail items to thousands of people, some email providers may think these items are spam or junk mail, even though they are not. If you have not received anything from me in over two weeks, email me to let me know so that I can attempt to troubleshoot the issue.